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CONTENTS

Latin America

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Panama's Cardoze on Contadora Postponement [LA REPUBLICA 14 Feb] A 1
Mexico's Sepulveda Explains Postponement [AFP] A 2
Nicaragua's Tinoco Comments [NOTIMEX] A 2

ARGENTINA

Foreign Ministry Issues Falklands Communique B 1
Caputo on Possible Reagan Mediation on Falklands B 2
Further Comments B 2
Senator Says No Decision on Falklands Leasing B 3
Minister Says No Renegotiation of IMF Goals B 4
Alfonsin Expresses 'Annoyance' at UCR Actions B 4
Economy Minister, Central Bank President Resign B 4
Economic Team To Resign B 5
Treasury Secretary Reports Economic Estimates [BUENOS AIRES HERALD 15 Feb] B 5
Auto, Construction Workers Strike Despite Truce [BUENOS AIRES HERALD 15 Feb] B 5
CGT Agrees to 14-Percent Wage Increase [BUENOS AIRES HERALD 16 Feb] B 6

BOLIVIA

Lechin Rejects Siles Government Takeover Charges C 1

CHILE

Understanding Reached With IMF on 1985 Payment E 1
Del Valle Discusses Meeting With Motley E 1
Interior Minister Comments E 2
European Parliament Vote Termed 'Irrelevant' E 3
Former Interior Minister Calls Change 'Normal' E 3
Former OAS Ambassador Madariaga Returns E 3
Court Decision To Ban MDP Officially Confirmed E 3

COLOMBIA

Delegates Travel to Las Dantas for M-19 Congress F 1
Asylum Granted to Miskitos Aboard Seized Ship F 1
Ramirez Ocampo on Venezuelan Ties, Contadora F 2
Public Works Minister Resigns To Run for Senate F 2
ELN Claims Killing of Peace Commission Member F 2

ECUADOR

Febres, Colombia's Betancur Meet at Border Bridge G 1
Issue Joint Declaration G 1

PERU

Violence Disrupts Campaign; Morales Injured J 1
APRA Candidate Calls for Unity To Solve Crisis J 2
Ahead in Polls J 2
Shining Path Attacks Along Border Highway J 2
Colombian Drug Traffickers Land on Highway J 3
Minister Discloses Plan To Use Brasilsat J 3

MEXICO

Sepulveda Says U.S. 'Discouraged' Negotiations M 1
Professional Exchange Accord Signed With PRC M 1

CENTRAL AMERICA

Foreign Ministers Discuss Contadora Process P 1
Issue Communique on Talks P 2

COSTA RICA

New Incident at Managua Embassy 'Cleared Up' P 3
[RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO 14-20 Feb]
Security Council on Ministers Meeting, Other Issues P 4
Campos Questions Drug Trafficking Charges P 5
[LA NACION 11 Feb]

EL SALVADOR

Duarte Urges Rebels To Join Democratic Process P 6
[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 15 Feb]
Duarte Announces Education Human Rights Programs P 6
Tenorio on 'Formidable' Problems Facing Duarte P 7
FMLN Decrees Traffic Paralyzation To Begin 20 Feb [Venceremos] P 8

GUATEMALA

Andrade Offers To Mediate Between Nicaragua, Costa Rica P 8
[EL GRAFICO 17 Feb]
Andrade Denies Offer P 8

HONDURAS

Suazo Dedicates Airstrip, Lauds Ties With U.S. P 9
[EL HERALDO 15 Feb]

NICARAGUA

D'Escoto Calls for Resumption of Talks With U.S. P 10
To Visit U.S. P 10
Protest Note Sent to Costa Rica Over Attack [ACAN] P 10
Borge Charges Costa Rica Violating Right to Asylum P 11
D'Escoto Deplores 'Blackmail' of Contadora Group [AFP] P 12
Praises Guatemalan Position P 12
Ramirez on Contadora, European Tour, Contras [AFP] P 13
Micoin Announces Price Hikes for 17 Products [AFP] P 14
CDN Members Accept Ortega's Invitation To Meet P 14
FDN's Calero on Struggle Against Government P 15
Sees FSLN Division [San Jose Radio Impacto] P 15
Discusses U.S. Aid [ACAN] P 15

CUBA

Castro Discusses Central America, Disarmament [EFE]	Q 1
Ties With Spain [EFE]	Q 3
Relations With Other Countries [EFE]	Q 5
Further on Other Countries [EFE]	Q 7
Fidel Castro Proposed as Precandidate to Congress	Q 9
Canadian Paper on U.S., Cuban Relations	Q 9
Havana Radio on U.S. Policies, Sugar Imports	Q 9
Foreign Trade Vice Minister on Soviet-Cuban Trade	Q 10

PANAMA'S CARDOZE ON CONTADORA POSTPONEMENT

PA151905 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 14 Feb 85 pp 23, 24

[By Demetrio Olaciregui]

[Text] Upon explaining the reasons why the joint meeting scheduled to begin today in this capital between the Contadora Group and the Central American foreign ministers was "postponed" until a later date, Panamanian Foreign Minister Fernando Cardoze Fabrega said that "the Contadora Group's efforts are difficult, but the mediation process continues."

"In all negotiations there are times of great activity and times of less activity. At this time we are working on achieving rapprochement among the Central American governments so that they can overcome their differences," Foreign Minister Cardoze added during a telephone conversation an midday today with LA REPUBLICA.

Upon the Contadora Group's completion of 2 years of peacemaking efforts on 9 January, the foreign ministers of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama scheduled a meeting of "plenipotentiaries" from the five Central American countries for 14 and 15 February in Panama "with the aim of establishing verification and control mechanisms and discussing other issues that are to be resolved prior to signing the Contadora Document." The reason for gathering the "plenipotentiaries" was to have representatives with full power to negotiate and assume commitments on their governments' behalf.

The Contadora Group deputy foreign ministers met on Tuesday and Wednesday to prepare for the meeting. However, since the conflict between Costa Rica and Nicaragua regarding the Nicaraguan refugee arrested under mysterious circumstances in the vicinity of the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua was not resolved, the meeting was not held.

"Despite the Contadora Group's mediation efforts in the conflict between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, no definite agreement has been achieved and under these circumstances it is best to postpone the meeting and attempt to have the two sides agree on the points of conflict," Foreign Minister Cardoze said. He pointed out that in the meantime the Contadora Group deputy foreign ministers will continue their work by "moving forward, polishing the proposals, and preparing in depth for the meeting of Central American plenipotentiaries to discuss the Contadora document."

"When the conflict between Costa Rica and Nicaragua is resolved, the date of the plenipotentiaries' meeting will be announced," the Panamanian foreign minister said.

According to an official communique, "the Contadora Group reiterates its willingness to offer its good offices and its inflexible desire to mediate so that this bilateral matter or any other regional incident will be adequately resolved. To achieve this it is important to avoid having the negotiation and pacification process blocked by incidents such as these."

"The delicate Central American crisis deserves a renewed political effort to center all attention on the solution of problems, the magnitude and gravity of which cannot be overlooked," the communique stated, urging the "governments involved in the Central American conflict to continue negotiating in good faith, with flexibility, and with the conviction that in the end peace in the region will depend only on the efforts and responsibilities their governments adopt."

Mexico's Sepulveda Explains Postponement

PA150409 Paris AFP in Spanish 0157 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Feb (AFP) -- Bernardo Sepulveda, Mexican foreign secretary, addressed a message to EEC foreign ministers thanking them for their support of the Contadora Group and explaining the causes for the postponement of the meeting scheduled to begin in Panama City today. In his message, Sepulveda indicated that, despite the group's efforts, "it has not been possible to find a peaceful solution to the disagreement between Costa Rica and Nicaragua regarding the application of the right to asylum." He added: "The Contadora Group has determined to postpone the meeting considering that at present conditions are not favorable for reaching political accords that would make possible the resolution of the grave problems affecting Central America."

Sepulveda emphasized: "Nevertheless, we will continue, with renewed determination, our diplomatic efforts to solve any problem that might represent an obstacle to the regional negotiation process. We will continue our efforts to establish the political conditions that would make possible the signing of the document of peace and cooperation in Central America."

Sepulveda's message was in response to a message that the EEC foreign ministers had sent to the Contadora Group at the end of a meeting held in Rome on 12 February.

Nicaragua's Tinoco Comments

FL151354 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0350 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Panama City, 14 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Panamanian Foreign Minister Fernando Cardoze said here today that the Contadora efforts would be difficult but the mediation process will continue. Meanwhile, the deputy foreign ministers of the Contadora Group countries concluded their work sessions that have been going on here since Tuesday. Cordoze stressed that the Contadora Group is continuing its peace and negotiation efforts and is now trying to bring Costa Rica and Nicaragua together so they can overcome their differences on the issue of the right of asylum.

Panamanian Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Maria Cabrera meanwhile reported the end of the meeting he had here with his counterparts from Contadora members Mexico, Venezuela, and Colombia. Without providing details, Cabrera said only that the work was intense and effective.

According to unofficial reports, Contadora representatives might tour Central America in the next few days. This has not been confirmed.

At the same time, Nicaragua, through Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco, expressed to the Contadora Group its complete willingness to continue the dialogue with Costa Rica as well as with the United States. Nevertheless Tinoco, who arrived in Panama on the night of 13 February, expressed pessimism over the renewal of talks with Washington, due to the refusal of the U.S. Government to recognize the Sandinist revolution and the U.S. decision to break off talks with Nicaragua in the Mexican port of Manzanillo. The Nicaraguan deputy foreign minister said that during the last three rounds of talks, the United States tried to obligate Nicaragua to accept certain modifications in the Contadora Document for peace and cooperation. Tinoco finally accused the Reagan administration of maintaining a permanent policy of aiding anti-Sandinist groups operating in Honduras along Nicaragua's northern border.

FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUES FALKLANDS COMMUNIQUE

PY162015 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1926 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Feb (TELAM) -- The Argentine Government today expressed its concern over the British intention, according to reports from London, to reform the Constitution of the Malvinas Islands by improperly invoking the principle of self-determination, with the intention of granting the islanders the possibility of extending the current colonial situation.

The official communique released today by the Foreign Ministry is entitled: Declaration of the Government of the Argentine Republic: Distortion of the Principle of Self-Determination. The communique points out the contrast between the position of the United Kingdom and Argentina, a country with a democratic government willing to find a negotiated solution to the dispute over the islands. The following is the text of the communique:

"Declaration of the Government of the Argentine Republic: Distortion of the Principle of Self-Determination:

"The Government of the Argentine Republic expresses its concern over reports from London that the Government of the United Kingdom intends to reform the Constitution of the Malvinas Islands. The terms of such a reform would imply a total rejection of the resolutions of the UN General Assembly 37-9, 38-12, and 39-6, and especially the spirit of Resolution 31-49 which exhorts the two sides to abstain from adopting decisions that would unilaterally change the current situation.

"By improperly invoking the principle of self-determination, this reform would pretend to grant the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands the possibility of extending the current colonial situation and forgetting, among other things, that they are now full British citizens in accordance with the nationality law approved by the British Parliament in 1983.

"Such a right of self-determination would be even more surprising because it implies that the inhabitants of the islands could exercise a right of veto over the eventual decisions of the British Parliament on the Malvinas Islands, a situation that does not seem consistent with the British institutional regime. At the same time it is difficult to find at the international level a more clear example of contradiction between the true definition of the concept of self-determination and a distorted application of it. In effect, it should be recalled that the original authorities and inhabitants who came from Argentina were expelled from the islands through an illegal act of force and replaced by a colonial administration and a British population. Later the United Kingdom systematically prevented Argentine citizens from residing on the Malvinas. As a consequence, since the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands are not of a nationality different from the power that occupies the island and since they are not originally from the territory where they currently reside, the alleged enforcement of the principle of self-determination will only serve to ratify an illegal occupation.

"In view of this, the Argentine Government believes that the condition of the inhabitants of the archipelago represents an essential element of the negotiations that should be carried out with the United Kingdom to peacefully resolve this issue. This is how this matter has been considered in the past. The statement reiterated by the United Kingdom regarding the preservation of certain rights, individual and patrimonial guarantees, and other aspects of the islanders' Constitution, as stated particularly during previous negotiations, is further proof of this matter. These suggestions were never seriously taken into account by the British Government nor disclosed to the islanders.

"Factually speaking, the establishment of communications between the Argentine continental territory and the islands, at the time, brought great benefits to the islanders and proved the Argentine desire to duly care for their well-being. The Argentine Constitution has established a system of rights and guarantees for all who wish to reside in Argentine territory, under which millions of men and women have come to our territory and under which the most varied communities freely and without suffering any type of discrimination live in the Argentine Republic. Moreover, the Argentine Constitution also provides for a federal regime that grants autonomy to the provinces, thus opening the possibility of adopting a judicial regime that will allow the islanders to preserve their interests, life-style, traditions, and patrimonial rights, with the appropriate guarantees within the framework of an overall solution. The Argentine Government has continuously expressed its desire to do this, as well as the desire to explore any other possibility of achieving the pursued objective.

"However, this predisposition of the Argentine Government is inhibited by the British refusal to resume negotiations. The refusal of the United Kingdom to consider this and other problems linked to the sovereignty issue, in addition to the recent reports regarding a modification of the Constitution of the Malvinas Islands, clashes with the willingness of the democratic Argentine Government to find a negotiated solution to the dispute. Moreover, it jeopardizes the good offices mission of the UN secretary general and thus prevents the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two countries."

CAPUTO ON POSSIBLE REAGAN MEDIATION ON FALKLANDS

PY181743 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1645 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Feb (TELAM) -- When asked about the possibility that U.S. President Ronald Reagan will undertake mediation between Argentina and Great Britain over the Malvinas Islands, Foreign Minister Dante Caputo said today that the UN secretary general is involved in a good offices mission and is, therefore, the main agent in this mediation process. He added, however, that any government that tries to bring the two parties closer will fulfill a useful mission, adding that all peace-loving governments should show their concern over this question. In press statements made at Government House after the ceremony during which the Bolivian ambassador presented his credentials, Caputo stated that Argentina does not accept starting talks which separate the sovereignty question from the general negotiating package.

Further Comments

PY182145 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2024 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 18 Feb (TELAM) -- In statements made at Government House after the ceremony during which the Bolivian ambassador presented his credentials to President Raul Alfonsin, Foreign Minister Dante Caputo stated that the problem of the southern archipelago is more than a bilateral problem between the United Kingdom and Argentina. Caputo stated that "the Malvinas fortress and the creation of a zone of tension in the area is the concern of all those countries and governments that wish to preserve peace in this part of the world." Therefore, the foreign minister believes it only logical and reasonable that there should be interest in solving these problems. Regarding the negotiations over the Malvinas Islands, he reasserted that Argentina does not accept starting negotiations with Great Britain if the subject of sovereignty is not included in the overall package of negotiations. He said that "there is no such thing as a package of commercial relations separated from another package regarding the sovereignty issue. We want to discuss all issues simultaneously."

Caputo said that we are willing to negotiate anything at the proper time, but we cannot accept a weakening of the Argentine stance regarding sovereignty in order to start negotiations on other subjects such as the exclusion zone and the restoration of commercial relations.

In referring to the document issued by the Foreign Ministry this past weekend, Caputo stated that it was a warning on ideas which reportedly could eventually be adopted by the British Government, which seems willing to amend the Constitution so that the future of the islands will be decided by the islanders. Caputo noted that we see a very serious contradiction in this regard, since the principle of self-determination, which Argentina has upheld for the decolonization of all territory under colonial domain, cannot be claimed in this case and is here seriously distorted.

He recalled that in 1982 Great Britain declared the islanders full British citizens, granting them the same rights and duties as the inhabitants of London. Therefore, they no longer live on colonized territory. As an example, Caputo said that "the principle of self-determination is applied to colonized people, and not to those who have the same rights as citizens residing in the capital. It is the same as asking a Londoner what the future of a colonial territory should be."

Caputo then pointed out the existence of [words indistinct] contradictions: Since they (the islanders) are full British citizens, 1,800 people would make a decision for the remaining British citizens. In other words, the decision of 1,800 persons would prevail over that of the Parliament, which represents the opinion of all British citizens.

Caputo noted that the second part of the Argentine document, a copy of which was immediately sent to Perez de Cuellar, points out the Argentine Government's decision to grant guarantees within the framework of the national Constitution, which recognizes the federal organization of the territory. He said that "in the future we could draw up special statutes for the islanders."

SENATOR SAYS NO DECISION ON FALKLANDS LEASING

PY180215 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1516 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Santiago del Estero, 17 Feb (TELAM) -- Senator Adolfo Gass, Radical Civic Union [UCR] -- Buenos Aires, has stated that the possible leasing of the Malvinas Islands from Great Britain is merely a theory that is under discussion and not a decision that has been adopted by the national government.

Gass, who made this statement during an LRA-21 Radio Nacional de Santiago del Estero program entitled "Politics 1985," said that this idea is being discussed by the UCR legislative bloc and that the leasing will be valid if the United Kingdom's acceptance presupposes the recognition of Argentina's sovereignty over the southern archipelago. He added that discussion of the idea of leasing the islands began after the meeting with British legislators in London at the beginning of 1984, at which time one of them mentioned this as a possibility to pursue in the negotiations.

During the same radio program Gass warned that he accepts criticisms and different opinions, but he expressed his disagreement with merely insulting remarks such as those issued by Deputy Mario Roberto who classified this proposal as treason to the fatherland. He noted: "I accept the fact that some may not agree with my ideas or my position, but I believe that it is incorrect and irresponsible of him to express his disagreements through insults." He expressed the need for respecting the ideas of others and noted that if we disagree we should criticize by putting forth other ideas, not by insulting people. Gass said: "I am not obsessed with the idea of leasing the Malvinas Islands; it is only an alternative for the holding of negotiations.

During the telephone conversation with the Radio Nacional branch, Cass did not reject the possibility of holding a plebiscite on the issue, but he added that we cannot talk about it since there is no firm negotiation with Great Britain in this regard.

MINISTER SAYS NO RENEGOTIATION OF IMF GOALS

PY161540 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2332 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Feb (TELAM) -- The economy minister made it clear today that he does not consider the possibility of renegotiating the objectives agreed upon with the IMF, thus denying in writing a REUTER report. The official communique, released by the Economy Ministry press office at 2020, reads as follows.

"A report from the English news agency REUTER, signed by Mr John Reichertz and dated today, says that the Argentine Government is considering the possibility of renegotiating the objectives agreed upon with the IMF. REUTER quotes opinions and a private study in which it is said that four of the seven objectives agreed upon have not been achieved.

"In this connection, the economy minister makes it clear that all the commitments he made during his negotiations on the foreign debt, including the 'objectives,' have been met satisfactorily, and that he is not considering the possibility of renegotiating any of the agreements which have been signed, including those concluded with the IMF. He further believes that the repeated publication of fanciful reports, such as the one this communique answers, hinders the management of public affairs and disturbs the climate in which his tasks should be undertaken."

ALFONSIN EXPRESSES 'ANNOYANCE' AT UCR ACTIONS

PY181118 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1902 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 16 Feb (NA) -- According to legislators who have met with President Raul Alfonsin, he has expressed his "annoyance and displeasure" because the Radical Civic Union [UCR] National Board has summoned Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun and Foreign Minister Dante Caputo to report on their respective activities. Those present at the meeting between the president and the UCR legislators also disclosed that during the meeting the president said that "there cannot be any internal progress within the party because of the criticisms made against the government." He said this regarding the summons issued to Grinspun and Caputo.

Alfonsin reportedly stated that the government's social, economic and political policies must be studied, but that party sectors should not take advantage of this to gain more power within the party. Apparently the UCR board's decision took the president by surprise since on 14 February the president had reportedly expressed his displeasure about the situation to Vice President Victor Martinez, who went to the Olivos presidential residence immediately after the UCR board meeting had ended.

ECONOMY MINISTER, CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT RESIGN

PY190000 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2348 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Feb (TELAM) -- Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez tonight reported that Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun and Central Bank President Enrique Garcia Vazquez have submitted their resignations. Lopez added that Juan Sourrouille, planning secretary, will replace Grinspun while Vazquez will be replaced by Alfredo Concepcion, foreign trade secretary.

Economic Team To Resign

PY190015 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0005 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Feb (TELAM) -- The secretaries of state of the economic area tonight announced that they will submit a joint resignation along with outgoing Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun. This information was disclosed by current Finance Secretary Norberto Bertaina after a meeting which these officials held at the Economy Ministry.

TREASURY SECRETARY REPORTS ECONOMIC ESTIMATES

PY152110 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 15 Feb 85 p 7

[Text] (NA) -- Treasury Secretary Norberto Bertaina said yesterday the 1985 budget was drawn up on the basis of an 222 percent inflation for the year, and he added that an adequate exchange rate would be maintained to promote exports. Bertaina told the budget committee of the lower house of Congress that the exchange rate would not be used as an anti-inflation variable but as an instrument to boost industrial exports which were needed to finance foreign commitments. Bertaina said the gross domestic product was estimated at the equivalent of 68 billion dollars at an average exchange rate of 341 pesos per dollar. The official said the inflation estimate was based on wholesale prices and would bring the average rate for 1984 and 1985 to 360 percent per annum.

During the three-hours session, Bertaina and Committee Chairman Jesus Rodriguez as well as other Radical members crossed swords with Justicialists Diego Guelar and Jorge Matzkin, Intransigent Miguel Monserrat and Democratic Centre Unionist Alvaro Alsogaray, who severely criticized various aspects of the government bill. Guelar wanted to know what margins were provided in the budget for adjustments within the framework of the proposed socio-economic contract and to what extent the budget was conditioned by the agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the foreign debt. Bertaina replied the budget was perfectly compatible with the five-year plan prepared by the Planning Department to combat inflation and achieve economic growth and an adequate employment level.

Alsogaray's questions centred on how was the deference budget cut down even more than last year while according to press reports the military situation was very tight and the Armed Forces were having problems with their suppliers, but he did not get a clear answer from Bertaina.

Discussion also broke out on how the government was going to finance a deficit of 1.321 million pesos other than by printing more money and Bertaina replied the issuing of currency was an implicit inflationary tax.

Monserrat asked about the sale of two missile-carrying frigates included as a revenue source in the 1984 budget but which did not come off and was not included in this year's budget. Bertaina replied the government had not desisted from its intention of selling the frigates but would not do so for the time being.

AUTO, CONSTRUCTION WORKERS STRIKE DESPITE TRUCE

PY152100 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 15 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] (NA) -- A new strike call yesterday by the Auto Workers' Union (SMATA) and work stoppages next week by construction workers have further weakened the 30-day truce agreed on last February 5 by the Unified CGT and business groups participating in the socio-economic contract talks. SMATA delegates representing 35,000 auto dealership employees and mechanics yesterday voted to stage a 38-hour strike during the first half of March unless their pay demands are met.

Dealership workers on February 7 staged a 14-hour strike that was criticized by some for having violated the truce whereby the CGT and business groups promised to try to stop strikes and mass lay-offs for one month.

Meanwhile, Construction Workers' Union (UOCRA) delegates loyal to the list led by National Deputy Rogelio Papano voted to begin indefinite work-to-rule measures as of Monday and to stage a two-hour strike next Tuesday. But delegates loyal to Juan Farias, Papano's main rival in next month's internal polls, have refused to join the strike action, saying they will wait to see if a wage agreement is reached at the contract talks.

Train Drivers' Union President Luis Etchezar yesterday said members would go ahead with a planned 24-hour stoppage next Wednesday unless Ferrocarrils Argentinos pays the second and third part of a wage agreement reached last November.

In addition, Federal Capital power workers, Buenos Aires air traffic controllers and 100,000 meat-packers across the country are currently working-to-rule to demand pay hikes.

CGT AGREES TO 14-PERCENT WAGE INCREASE

PY161700 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 16 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- The governing board of the General Labour Confederation (CGT) yesterday grudgingly accepted a 14 percent wage increase for February but demands a government offer to keep wages in line with increased living costs during the next few months be submitted in writing.

The board applauded the attitude of three of the CGT secretaries-general who after a meeting with President Raul Alfonsin on Thursday night decided to return to talks on the proposed socio-economic contract from which they had abruptly withdrawn on Wednesday.

Secretaries-General Saul Ubaldini, Jorge Triaca and Osvaldo Borda extracted a commitment from Alfonsin to reinstate wage bargaining committees -- banned since 1975 -- by July 1 and brought with them a proposal to increase wages monthly by at least 90 percent of the previous month's cost of living increase and bring them up to date every three months.

The CGT board said it would accept the proposal once the government had submitted it in writing and it had been put to the consideration of a plenary meeting of regional secretaries-general expected to be held early in March. The CGT board also agreed to a proposal by workers in the public sector not to sign the wage agreements unless state workers received exactly the same benefits as workers in the private sector.

Although the 14 percent increase for February was well below the 25.1 percent increase in living costs during January, many workers will benefit from an increase in family allowances for school children. These went up to $a7,200 [pesos] for each child attending first to third grade and $a9,000 for those attending fourth to seventh grade.

Another concession obtained from the government would have CGT leaders taking part in the drafting of wage decrees for which purpose they will meet with Labour Minister Hugo Barrionuevo as from Monday.

CGT spokesmen said the demand for the wage proposals was made in writing because in the past other government officials claimed they were not aware of verbal agreements reached with the president.

LECHIN REJECTS SILES GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER CHARGES

PY151915 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Top-ranking Bolivian Labor Federation Leader [COB] Juan Lechin Oquendo has refuted government charges that the COB is trying to destabilize the country in order to take over the government.

Hours after issuing an economic package, the Siles Zuazo cabinet launched a systematic campaign against the COB which, after holding a national assembly, was charged with having established a parallel government. This systematic attack against the COB reached its climax when President Siles Zuazo talked with university students. Since the COB could not stay idle in view of the situation, Lechin has moved to defend the COB. He said:

[Begin recording] The truth is that even Bolivian children know that if anyone wants to take over the government in our country you first need to have armed support, which the COB lacks. We are not adventurers who wish to submerge the people in a bloodbath.

Although the subjective conditions are present to launch an insurrection, the objective conditions are not. No one can take over the government without arms since the first thing that must be done is to finish off the repressive apparatus of this capitalist government that has sold us out to imperialism. I do not know where Siles got his story. It sounds like he was misinformed by some of his ministers. [end recording]

As it is well-known, official government sources have spread the rumor that the COB has instructed all its member unions to take over all strategic state companies with the objective of taking over the government. This would explain the heavy police guard recently stationed in state companies like Government Oil Deposits, Bolivian Television Company, and so forth.

[Begin recording] It is regrettable that despite his experience, President Siles cannot understand where the important centers of power are, the military garrisons. [Words indistinct] with social objectives in mind but [words indistinct]. It seems that what the government really wants is to reproduce similar incidents that have been taking place in the interior of the country for quite a few days. In Santa Cruz and other cities, hungry people are robbing food distribution centers. What the COB wants is to avoid this, it wants to organize the equitable distribution of food. It seems that the government wants to promote violence. It seems that those who live in El Alto [upper-middle class La Paz neighborhood] and government people do not realize that the people are hungry. They are not aware of this because they never come down from the clouds since there is no shortage of supplies for them while the people cannot buy staples, such as meat, because of extremely high prices. There is a shortage of milk for children. In other cities people are looting shops. [end recording]

Lechin added that the government is offended because at present the COB is carrying out a role that should have been carried out by the executive branch. He added that there is a power vacuum in Bolivia, that there is no executive branch to control speculation and hoarding, and to end the people's hunger.

UNDERSTANDING REACHED WITH IMF ON 1985 PAYMENT

PY160130 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The Chilean Government and the IMF mission to Chile have reached an understanding in which the previous main economic objectives are maintained, official sources have said. The IMF mission will travel to Washington this weekend to present the new letter of intent. This letter, which was drawn up cooperatively by the IMF mission and the government, is for an economic program that plans to fulfill the obligations of the Chilean balance of payment in 1985. It is still not known whether a stand-by credit with a 2-year payback term or a 3-year loan with generous payback options will be obtained.

This pre-agreement has to be approved by IMF Director Jacques de Larosiere and the IMF Executive Board in Washington.

The IMF credit is considered to be essential in beginning the talks with the international creditor banks in order to obtain new foreign credits and to renegotiate our foreign debt.

Finance Minister Luis Escobar Cerda said that the same economic objectives are being maintained. These objectives are a 4-percent economic growth, a 23-percent inflation rate without any loss of reserves, a 3.5-percent deficit, and a current account deficit of $1.7 billion.

DEL VALLE DISCUSSES MEETING WITH MOTLEY

PY190215 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle said that Langhorne Motley's visit is of a political-diplomatic nature. The foreign minister made this statement after receiving the U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs in his office. Del Valle also said that the U.S. Government official's presence in Chile demonstrates a positive initiative on the part of both countries.

[Begin recording] [Del Valle] He was invited to come by the Chilean Government. The last time he was here was 20 years ago. Therefore, he will be able to see, hear, and observe a lot of things that will be good for him to learn. The first meeting he held with the interior minister was very cordial, pleasant, very calm, like the one I held with him. We are old friends; we held lengthy talks in New York, so this meeting would be a continuation of that meeting.

[Reporter] How important do you deem these direct contacts between U.S. and Chilean Government authorities?

[Del Valle] They are very important because human beings understand each other by talking to one another.

[Question indistinct]

[Del Valle] Because Chile has always played an important role in South America. It has been an example, an important stronghold of democracy. Therefore, the United States desires that the return to a full democracy, [words indistinct] undoubtedly in 1989, be carried out in the most calm and peaceful way possible.

[Question indistinct]

[Del Valle] No, we did not discuss that subject. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Del Valle reasserted the importance of this type of meeting when he was asked his opinion on this dialogue with the U.S. Government official now that a new presidential term has just started in the United States. He termed the talks of a political-diplomatic nature.

[Begin recording] [Del Valle] I think that they are important. I have told you that dialogue between diplomats, foreign ministers, and high-ranking government officials is important because it clarifies issues which sometimes are misinterpreted and (?lead) to mistakes.

[Question indistinct]

[Del Valle] Naturally, I think that Motley's presence here is very important.

[Question indistinct]

[Del Valle] I had already spoken to Ambassador Errazuriz a few weeks ago for more than 1 hour in Miami. (?He) did not have a very clear picture of the situation. [passage indistinct]

[Reporter] Has a new phase of dialogue between Chile and the United States begun?

[Del Valle] There has always been dialogue. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

The meeting held by Foreign Minister Del Valle with Langhorne Motley lasted approximately 50 minutes. The U.S. official was accompanied by two members of the White House Security Council and by the person in charge of the Chilean desk. U.S. Ambassador to Chile James Theberge and Chilean Ambassador to the United States Hernan Felipe Errazuriz were also present at the meeting.

Interior Minister Comments

PY190100 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] President Augusto Pinochet held a cordial and pleasant working luncheon with U.S. Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs Langhorne Motley today. The interior, foreign affairs, and secretary general of the government ministers and the secretary general of the Presidency were also present, along with the deputy foreign minister, the Chilean ambassador to the U.S., the U.S. ambassador in Santiago, and the official in charge of the Chilean desk at the U.S. Department of State. At the conclusion of the meeting, Interior Minister Ricardo Garcia held a brief talk with the journalists assigned to La Moneda Palace:

[Begin recording] The meeting was very pleasant, very pleasant, very cordial. We talked on general matters, even anecdotal ones, which demonstrate the cordial relations prevailing between U.S. and Chilean officials. [end recording]

Asked about the meeting he previously held with the visitor, Minister Garcia stated that the meeting had been very pleasant. I feel that it was a very positive meeting which should result in an even greater understanding between us and keep up the relations that are currently being maintained with the United States. The interior minister was also asked about the concern for Chile shown by the United States. In this regard, Garcia replied:

[Begin recording] I feel that Mr Motley's visit is a very short one and [words indistinct] general that the United States has with the other Latin American countries. [end recording]

In conclusion, Interior Minister Ricardo Garcia stated that all contacts are always useful.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT VOTE TERMED 'IRRELEVANT'

PY161407 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has termed as irrelevant the vote against Chile in the European Parliament. Official spokesman Jose Manuel Ovalle explained that only 90 of the 615 (?delegates) of that international body were present for the approval of measures and that the voting was by a show of hands. The vote was on Chilean domestic questions which have been made sufficiently clear by the government.

FORMER INTERIOR MINISTER CALLS CHANGE 'NORMAL'

PY151920 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa said that people should not speculate on the reasons for his resignation. These statements were made as he was leaving La Moneda Palace where he held a 1 and 1/2-hour meeting with the current interior minister, Ricardo Garcia. Onofre Jarpa explained that during the meeting they discussed some of this ministry's current projects and said that the socioeconomic council as well as the commission for ecology affairs will continue functioning as they have done up to now. Regarding rumors that he had allegedly failed in his post as minister and that he only managed to split the National Party, Jarpa said that everybody is entitled to believe what he likes and that he had no further explanations to give. Jarpa also said that a change of minister should only be interpreted as an effort to preserve the continuity of the course of action of the government.

[Begin Jarpa recording] [Words indistinct] continuity of the course of action of the government. The fact that one person is replaced by another is quite normal in any government [words indistinct]. [end recording]

FORMER OAS AMBASSADOR MADARIAGA RETURNS

PY161935 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Monica Madariaga has returned to the country. The former ambassador to the OAS came home on a Chilean National Airline plane from the United States. At the airport she talked briefly with newsmen. She refrained from making statements, limiting herself to saying that she was happy to be back in Chile and that she was satisfied with her mission at the OAS. She added that reports that she has been offered a post in an international organization are just rumors. She termed the reports that she would join a movement for a return to full democracy as an invention of U.S. newmen.

COURT DECISION TO BAN MDP OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED

PY161731 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] The decision of the Constitutional Court outlawing the Popular Democratic Movement [MDP] has been officially confirmed. The court sentence was published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE today. The Constitutional Court says that both the MDP and the various factions and parties making up the movement are guilty of professing and propagating the Marxist-Leninist doctrine. Thus, it adds, they violate Article 8, Clause 2 of the Constitution. They are, therefore, unconstitutional.

DELEGATES TRAVEL TO LAS DANTAS FOR M-19 CONGRESS

PA152006 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Delegates to the congress for peace and democracy have decided to go to Las Dantas ridge despite the various police and military checkpoints. The climb began this afternoon [words indistinct] in what 19 April Movement [M-19] spokesmen termed the practical holding of the event despite the official prohibition. This is the response of Colombians who back the peace policy to the government's refusal to allow the congress to be held in Florida, members of the M-19 noted.

Meanwhile, an official response was expected this afternoon to the M-19 request to continue holding the congress in this municipality. It was also reported that Colombian Petroleum Enterprise [Ecopetrol] workers in Bucaramanga asked for permission to attend a labor congress in the capital of Valle del Cauca, but they were really trying to go to the M-19 camp to participate in the meeting the guerrilla organization is holding. The Ecopetrol workers were stopped and are being held at judicial offices in Valle del Cauca.

It was also reported that during an Administrative Department of Security, DAS, operation, explosives and M-19 propaganda were seized. This occurred when DAS raided a house on 73d and 22d Streets today. The DAS agents were admitted in by Elsie Aceveda Marroquin when they arrived at the house. She was immediately arrested. The DAS found homemade bombs, dynamite sticks, fuses, and a large quantity of M-19 pamphlets.

The government of Florida decided to suspend classes at public and private schools due to the situation in the area.

[Name indistinct] Chavez Penalosa said that this measure was adopted to prevent public disturbances involving teachers in the town. The mayor added that classes will resume on Monday.

DAS continues to send agents to southern and northern Cauca Department to control the entry of people who sympathize with the M-19 in the area.

The M-19 said that its main leaders will not go to Cali or any other city, aside from Florida, to attend or hold the first congress for peace and democracy. Consequently the ninth M-19 conference is already under way in Las Dantas near the M-19 camp.

ASYLUM GRANTED TO MISKITOS ABOARD SEIZED SHIP

PA151926 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Bogota -- This afternoon the Colombian Foreign Ministry announced that Colombia has decided to grant asylum to five Nicaraguan Miskito Indians who arrived at San Andres Island yesterday aboard a ship they seized. The Promar 36 fishing boat was taken off course by Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries armed with firearms and grenades who took control of the boat and its eight crewmen shortly after the boat left Corn Island on the Nicaraguan Atlantic coast.

A brief Foreign Ministry communique noted: Regarding the Promar 36 fishing boat, the Foreign Ministry announces that the boat will be returned to the Nicaraguan Government. The people aboard will be granted territorial asylum if this is their request.

RAMIREZ OCAMPO ON VENEZUELAN TIES, CONTADORA

PA152032 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Report by Favio Callejas from the Tequendama Hotel in Bogota -- live]

[Text] After 2 days of talks between Colombian and Venezuelan economic officials, the forum on relations between the countries has ended. Colombian Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo told this station about the forum's conclusions. He said:

[Begin recording] I believe the first thing that must be noted is the resumption of a dialogue that has been interrupted for a long time and that it is necessary so that we can (?restart) bilateral trade. The fact that businessmen, industrialists, and public officials met here [words indistinct] practical and extraordinary results. The first of these results is that we sat at the negotiating table [words indistinct] foreign trade of Venezuela and Colombia. In a very pragmatic analysis of the tariffs and in the search for clear [word indistinct]. [end recording]

The Colombian foreign minister also referred to the Contadora Group situation and said that the group's initiatives have not failed and that intense talks are under way between the Governments of Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Regarding this issue, he said:

[Begin recording] Yesterday and today [words indistinct] negotiations with each country. We continue our effort to find a solution to the problem that obstructed the scheduled Contadora meeting. We are not only trying to find a solution to comply with the mandate given to us by the OAS to serve as mediators, but also [words indistinct] of the Contadora Document itself. [end recording]

PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER RESIGNS TO RUN FOR SENATE

PA161908 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0459 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Bogota, 15 Feb (EFE) -- Colombian Public Works Minister Hernan Beltz Peralta today submitted his resignation to Colombian President Belisario Betancur. Beltz Peralta, who has been public works minister since 1983, said in his letter of resignation that he was resuming active politics with a view to the 1986 elections in the hope of securing a Senate seat. Beltz Peralta's resignation took place as a cabinet reorganization is approaching as the time nears for any public official wishing to run for office in the coming elections to leave his post. Colombian laws stipulate that any citizen who wants to run for the Senate, House of Representatives, departmental assemblies, or municipal councils cannot hold any government post 1 year before the elections are held.

ELN CLAIMS KILLING OF PEACE COMMISSION MEMBER

PA172100 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2013 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Bogota, 17 Feb (EFE) -- The Army of National Liberation (ELN) claimed responsibility today for killing Jose del Carmen Yepes [name as received], member of the national dialogue commission of Colombia. Yepes was killed Wednesday in Garzon in the central region of Colombia. Authorities have appointed special investigators to probe the crime. A message signed by the "Manuel Vasquez Castano" command of the ELN revealed today indicates that Yepes, who was also an agrarian leader, was killed because he was an "enemy of the poor peasants and a steadfast defender of the interests of the landholders." The guerrilla group also accused him of being an Army informer. The ELN is the only guerrilla group that did not sign the cease-fire between the largest guerrilla groups and Colombia President Belisario Betancur.

FEBRES, COLOMBIA'S BETANCUR MEET AT BORDER BRIDGE

PA152210 [Editorial Report] Quito Domestic Service in Spanish at 1615 GMT on 15 February carries live coverage of a meeting between Ecuadoran President Leon Febres Cordero and Colombian President Belisario Betancur at the Rumichaca International Bridge at the Colombian-Ecuadoran border. The announcer describes the formal ceremony during which the two presidents shake hands and the delegations of each country greet each president separately.

The announcer then says that Ecuadoran and Colombian Foreign Ministers Edgar Teran and Agusto Ramirez Ocampo, respectively, and the two presidents are signing documents prepared for the occasion which inclue "a joint declaration and bilateral agreements between the two countries."

After the documents are signed, Ecuadoran President Leon Febres Cordero begins speaking. He says that "the world already knows of your work, Mr President of Colombia, your love of democracy and your unlimited efforts in facing the difficulties arising from our underdevelopment and the selfish interests of powerful developed countries." Febres adds: "You can be sure that Ecuador stands beside you in all these actions, especially in the daily battle against that evil endangering the lives of our peoples and their main heritage, our youths, criminally threatened by the relentless crime of drug trafficking." He adds that "our peoples expect us to do whatever we can to assure them a present and future without chains. In order to implement projects for our people's benefit, let us help each other by meeting each other's needs."

Colombian President Betancur then spoke after Febres. He says: "Recent experiences and disappointments in focusing international reality have shown Third World countries, including Latin America, how important it is to modify the [word indistinct] to which we were accustomed as a result of our treatment by the great powers, acting against our own interests, since in a way, with our sacrifice, we ensure the technological advancement of industrialized countries." He adds: "We are committed to conducting enormous efforts for hemispheric stability and progress. We advocate a common front to meet acute phenomena such as the foreign debt and drug trafficking, and we reject the use of force as a way of resolving conflicts." Betancur adds: "Regarding their position on current international problems, Ecuador and Colombia have reaffirmed their willingness to maintain a similar line of conduct by ratifying their support for the Cartagena Consensus, Ecuador's ratifying its support for the Contadora Group's efforts and its irrevocable determination to achieve peace in Central America, and the two countries' insistence on the urgent need for a political dialogue to discuss the foreign debt crisis."

At 1657 GMT the announcer says that the two presidents are leaving the site of the ceremony in separate automobiles.

Issue Joint Declaration

PA151805 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1630 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Rumichaca, 15 Feb (EFE) -- Ecuadoran President Leon Febres Cordero and Colombian President Belisario Betancur today stressed the advisability of restructuring the Cartagena Agreement.

Febres Cordero and Betancur signed and issued a joint declaration today during a meeting in Rumichaca, a town on the border between the two countries.

According to observers, the Cartagena Agreement or Andean Pact, which is also made up of Bolivia, Peru, and Venezuela, is experiencing its most severe crisis since its founding in May 1969.

The two presidents reaffirmed "their objective to achieve Andean integration" but proposed the restructuring of the Andean Pact to turn it into an "effective instrument" to "promote and ease the circulation of people, capital, goods, and technology."

The heads of state voiced their "interest in reviewing Decision 24 [the Andean Foreign Investment Code] and its complementary rules" to ensure that "foreign investment will gain a more active role in the development of the countries of the subregion without displacing national or regional capital." To implement their objectives, the heads of state called for a meeting of the Andean Council of Foreign Ministers, the group's highest-ranking political body, as soon as possible.

The seven-page document covered a host of issues regarding international law and Central American, South American, and bilateral issues. The document urged the international community to hold talks to resolve problems peacefully and expressed pleasure over the resumption of disarmament talks between the United States and the USSR on 12 March in Geneva.

Presidents Febres and Betancur observed "with enthusiasm the democratization processes that are developing in Uruguay and Brazil" and voiced "their concern" over developments in Central America. They also noted the urgent need for foreign interests to be removed from the area.

After analyzing the work of the Contadora Group, the leaders stressed that the group's achievements are of unquestionable immediate and future importance in its contribution to restore peace.

The leaders reiterated their "special satisfaction" over the solution to the dispute between Argentina and Chile and expressed their solidarity with Pope John Paul II's recent statement on the effectiveness of dialogue and negotiation to overcome apparently unsolvable disputes.

These leaders expressed their support for the planned actions regarding the Amazon cooperation agreement, stating that all the Amazon basin countries are entitled to have free access and to use the Amazon River and its tributaries for shipping.

The leaders concurred on the need for all the area countries to promote efficient and dynamic cooperation to promote the region's total development.

In the statement, the leaders expressed "their deep concern over the impact of the international economic crisis, which is affecting even the developed countries and Latin America in particular, especially due to the huge service charges on the foreign debt and for the drastic adjustment programs that have been implemented." Despite some recent positive developments, such as a decrease in the international interest rates, the negotiations on the foreign debts, and the economic recovery of some industrialized nations, there are still negative apsects hampering the region's rate of recovery.

The heads of state also agreed that the terms reached during the recent restructuring of the foreign debt, which some of the 11 countries that comprise the Cartagena Consensus have signed, represent a step forward on future negotiations.

Thus, the leaders stated their support for the principles and proposals contained in the Cartagena Consensus and in the Mar del Plata and Santo Domingo communiques on the need to engage in a political dialogue with the creditor countries on the foreign debt issue.

Among other bilateral topics, the statement mentioned the fight against drug trafficking, the circulation of vehicles and persons, the status of undocumented aliens, development projects, and the reactivation of trade.

VIOLENCE DISRUPTS CAMPAIGN; MORALES INJURED

PY172100 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1524 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Lima, 17 Feb (EFE) -- The stoning of a presidential candidate and a candidate for deputy are signs of violence being seen in the Peruvian electoral camapign, with less than 2 months before the general elections. Peruvian political parties today condemned this outbreak of violence and Luis Bedoya Reyes, the candidate of the conservative alliance Democratic Convergence, asked for greater police protection at political meetings.

Last Friday night as General Francisco Morales Bermudez, retired, the former president of the 12-year de facto military regime, was going up the stand to address a crowd in the southern city of Arequipa, he was hit by a stone on the eyebrow. Morales Bermudez is the presidential candidate of the Democratic Front for National Unity. President Fernando Belaunde sent a message to Bermudez repudiating the attack.

Another stone attack occurred yesterday in Huaraz when Javier Alva, the presidential candidate of the government party Popular Action [AP] was delivering a speech. Physician Roberto Ganoza, an AP candidate for deputy was also hit in the head by a stone and had to be taken to a hospital. The police arrested about 20 persons. In the two incidents, disturbances were initiated by groups of people who booed the speakers and threw stones and other objects at them.

These events, which are not frequent in Peru, indicate that the electoral campaign is getting heated as 14 April, the date of the elections, gets closer. The political parties through their representatives or spokesmen are today repudiating the acts of violence while accusations are being made about the ideology of the people responsible for the stoning and booing. However, this has not prevented the candidates from continuing their campaigns, and Morales Bermudez has already created a slogan: "They can break my forehead, but not the front," which he heads. The Peruvian press has also rejected the violence in the electoral campaign through their headlines and editorials.

The heightened tension is not only obvious in the political field but also in the social area with strikes by mineworkers, state employees, municipal workers, and other employees. Municipal workers have been on strike in the Callao Port for 20 days and are now threatening an indefinite national strike of 70,000 municipal workers as of 19 February if their salary demands are not fulfilled. The workers of the Intersectorial Committee of State Workers, who have already held a 24-hour strike, said that they will hold an indefinite national strike as of 5 March demanding salary increases. In addition to these there are also other strikes. The most important is the one affecting Arequipa which is now in its sixth day and which has paralyzed the city, the second largest in the country. Some acts of violence have also taken place there. The situation is getting heated, both in the political and social sectors, in a country which is going through a severe economic crisis which will not be easily or quickly solved.

APRA CANDIDATE CALLS FOR UNITY TO SOLVE CRISIS

PY151512 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Presidential candidate Alan Garcia has said in Pucallpa that to overcome the serious situation, the country needs the effort of all Peruvians, adding that his message is directed not only at members of the American Revolutionary Popular Alliance [APRA].

[Begin recording] I did not come here just to alk to APRA members, but to urge them to carry my message to all Peruvians. Considering the serious national crisis, no single party or man can become the exclusive savior of the country. We need the participation of all citizens. We need the efforts of every person. At this time of crisis we need to give the Peruvian people a message of unity and faith, the faith of working for the future. Gathering our strength, we must realize that those who have failed are those who have governed Peru until now. It is not the people who have failed. If those who govern the country have failed, we, with God's help, through people and through our work will be able to solve the crisis and overcome the critical situation. [applause] [end recording]

Ahead in Polls

PY181142 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0030 GMT 18 Feb 85

[From "Panorama" program]

[Text] The following is a report by the Peruvian Public Opinion Institute which has conducted several polls among 600 people representing various social levels in Lima. The results refer to the months of July and October 1984 and January 1985. They are as follows:

Alan Garcia obtained 50, 45, and 49 percent of the potential votes. Luis Bedoya is in second place with 14, 15, and 16 percent; and he is followed by Alfonso Barrantes with 13, 20, and 16 percent; after him comes Javier Alva with 2, 5, and 4 percent. The percentage among other candidates and those undecided is, respectively, from 21 to 15 and 15 percent.

SHINING PATH ATTACKS ALONG BORDER HIGHWAY

PY181341 Lima Cadena Panamaericana Television in Spanish 0030 GMT 18 Feb 85

[From "Panorama" program]

[Excerpts] The Shining Path terrorist group has attacked all the settlements on both sides of the border highway this week. Apparently the intention was to intimidate the population and to make them abstain in the upcoming elections. The raids took place at night and were unusually brutal. Fifteen people were murdered in cold blood. (Alejandro Guerrero) has visited the region and here is his report:

[Begin recording] Along 30 km of the border highway, from Tingo Maria to (Huacanacu), are signs of terrorist raids carried out in the past few days. Using much paint and many people, Shining Path has covered the pavement with guerrilla war slogans and warnings to peasants to abstain from participating in the upcoming elections. The houses along both sides of the border highway are also covered with subversive slogans, proclaiming in huge letters the coming of the armed struggle.

Hundreds of telegraph poles and electric power lines have been cut down, leaving all the towns of the region without communications. There is widespread damage. The terrorists attacked these settlements, spreading terror and death among the peaceful peasants. They advanced along the border highway, taking men and women out of their homes and compelling them to walk ahead as protection. Behind the Shining Path terrorists followed trucks loaded with stones, logs and earth, which they scattered to block the roadway behind them.

It is estimated that nearly 200 terrorists participated in this violent attack in the central [word indistinct]. It seems that the so-called big offensive [gran salto] of the Shining Path, whose main objective is to boycott the upcoming April elections, has been initiated in this region. The population has been terrorized by the furious attack, and most people prefer not to speak. Many soldiers are along the border highway. Army units are clearing the roadway and [words indistinct] done by the terrorists. The letters MLM, which stand for the Marxist Liberation Movement [Movimiento de Liberacion Marxista], a new terrorist group operating in Huanuco Department, frequently appear in the settlements that were attacked.

This is Pueblo Nuevo, located 33 km from Tingo Maria, the place where the massacre took place. The inhabitants were taken to the schoolyard where they were shot down cruelly with machine guns. The traces of this new Shining Path crime can still be seen. In the hamlet Pueblo Nuevo 14 humble peasants were murdered. Only a few days after the massacre, their relatives are now coming to the Tingo Maria main cemetery to bury them. They were killed by Shining Path in the most brutal way imaginable. [end recording]

This is the terrorist group which intends to govern us [words indistinct].

COLOMBIAN DRUG TRAFFICKERS LAND ON HIGHWAY

PY152155 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1556 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Lima, 15 Feb (EFE) -- Small Colombian airplanes are using the Selva Region Border Highway as a landing strip on which to land and collect cocaine paste which they then transport to Colombia, where it is refined and from where it is sold to the United States and Europe. According to a report from a settler in San Martin Department, in the jungle, a small airplane bearing a Colombian flag landed on the border highway and loaded 300 kg of cocaine paste.

The newspaper EL COMERCIO today reports that the operation, which took place on 4 February, lasted about 10 minutes. Prior to that, some vehicles, allegedly belonging to drug traffickers, blocked the road. This fact shows the audacity of the cocaine traffickers who do not cease in their abominable trade.

MINISTER DISCLOSES PLAN TO USE BRASILSAT

PY151510 Lima Radio del Pacifico in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Transport and Communications Minister Francisco Aramayo Pinazo yesterday said that the small satellite [earth station] Domsat [as heard] will begin to be installed in 2 months in the Amazon jungle. When complete, the satellite will permit the total interconnection of that Peruvian region through the powerful Brazilian satellite, Brasilsat. The minister also disclosed that during his trip to Brazil it was proposed that Peru lease Brasilsat for the Peruvian Amazon region. He said that this is economically advantageous for our country.

SEPULVEDA SAYS U.S. 'DISCOURAGED' NEGOTIATIONS

PA170243 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1843 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Feb (EFE) -- Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda implicitly accused the United States of blocking the Contadora process when he said that with its attitude the United States has discouraged the negotiating spirit. Interviewed on Mexican television, Sepulveda explained that he believes that the U.S. withdrawal from the International Court of Justice in The Hague and the unilateral suspension of the Manzanillo talks with Nicaragua "dampened the spirit of the Central American leaders and discouraged that negotiating spirit which is needed to reach any commitment."

"The thrust toward negotiation has been weakened and the political void this could create, if no negotiating forums like the Contadora Group existed, increases the risks of war," he added. Sepulveda stressed that this risk affects not only the Central American nations, "but also neighboring countries like Mexico."

Sepulveda believes that the "thrust toward negotiation" began to fade "in late September when the Contadora efforts were questioned." At that time the peace document drafted by the Latin American diplomatic group (Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela) was was subjected to "observations" by Costa Rica, Honduras, and El Salvador after the United States decided that a "revision" of the document was necessary.

The foreign secretary rejected the possibility that a summit meeting, in the short term, among the chiefs of state of the four countries that form the Contadora Group would boost the Contadora peace-seeking efforts. "I believe that the conditions are not appropriate for the chiefs of state of meet," Sepulveda said, adding that this summit "must be very well prepared in order to bear fruit." "We the foreign ministers must lay the preliminary groundwork that will allow conditions for holding this meeting to ripen," he added.

Regarding the diplomatic problem between Nicaragua and Costa Rica that caused the suspension of the plenipotentiary meeting convoked by the Contadora Group for 14 February in Panama City, Sepulveda said: "It is an incident that, from our viewpoint, is less important when compared to the serious problems Central America faces." The diplomatic problem occurred when the Sandinist authorities, under circumstances which are still not clear, arrested a Nicaraguan youth who had requested asylum at the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua in order to avoid serving in the Army.

Despite these problems, Sepulveda reiterated that the Contadora Group will continue its work to achieve its objective: peace in Central America. "We think that the negotiating spirit can be renewed precisely because there are serious problems that make the efforts of Contadora necessary," Sepulveda said.

PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE ACCORD SIGNED WITH PRC

FL181230 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0136 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Irapuato, 17 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- It has been officially reported that the Mexican Government, through the National Polytechnic Institute's Center for Research and Advanced Studies located here, today signed a professional exchange agreement with Chinese officials. The accord will allow Chinese scientist in the specialties of the physiology and biochemistry of seeds Dr David Leung to stay in Mexico indefinitely for collaboration with the center's research staff. It was also reported that the Mexican scientist who will represent the National Polytechnic in China, who has not yet been named, will travel to the PRC under similar conditions.

FOREIGN MINISTERS DISCUSS CONTADORA PROCESS

PA150435 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Report by William Cespedes]

[Text] Since early this morning Salvadoran Foreign Minister Jorge Tenorio, Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez, and their delegations have been analyzing and revising the verification and control mechanisms for the implementation of the Contadora Group process. This is being done to complement the observations presented by these three countries and Guatemala to the Contadora Group in October. Costa Rican Deputy Foreign Minister Jorge Urbina has said that this meeting is a substitute for the meeting that was to be held in Panama City but which was suspended because Nicaragua did not help resolve its differences with Costa Rica. Regarding this matter and the future of the Contadora Group, Deputy Foreign Minister Urbina said:

[Begin recording] As everyone knows, the Central American countries had planned to work today and tomorrow in Panama City. Unfortunately, Nicaragua's behavior, contrary to Latin American principles regarding the right of asylum, has forced the postponement of that meeting.

However, the representatives of Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica have met tonight in San Jose and have decided, in a clear demonstration of support for the Contadora peacemaking efforts, to continue to work and produce ideas and material that will be presented to the Contadora Group at the appropriate time. The commissions are working on a draft of the statutes for verification and control mechanisms, and we are trying to achieve progress in this manner, demonstrating that our attitude is not one of hindering the Contadora process, but quite the contrary. However, the protection of the right of asylum comes before the Contadora process.

[Cespedes] What future do you see for Contadora following these incidents?

[Urbina] Those of us concerned about the Central American situation are somewhat forced to be optimistic. We trust that the efforts being carried out at the highest level by the Contadora Group, through its foreign ministries, will be successful in getting Nicaragua to respect the principles of American international law. Once Nicaragua demonstrates its respect for these principles, we hope that the Contadora process will be reactivated and that we will be able to continue talking of peace in the area.

[Cespedes] The Nicaraguan foreign minister has accused Costa Rica of hindering Contadora's mission.

[Urbina] I think it is very clear who is hindering the Contadora process. Nicaraguan Foreign Minister D'Escoto, and we are quite accustomed to this, yesterday launched a furious attack against the United States, a country that is not a member of the Contadora Group, accusing it of obstructing the process. Costa Rica has asked Nicaragua for something very simple: Take Jose Manuel Urbina Lara to a diplomatic mission, to any Latin American embassy other than Cuban, a West European embassy in Managua, or the Apostolic Nunciature, and let him renounce his right to asylum there. Once this is done we will return to Contadora. We are not asking much; this is all we are asking Nicaragua to do. However, the obstructionist attitude of the Managua regime is quite evident, and its guilt in the Urbina Lara case is very clear.

It is unfortunate that a revolution that described itself as magnanimous should seize a man who has said that he is sorry, who they say has voluntarily renounced his right to asylum and sentenced him to 5 years in prison.

I believe the facts speak for themselves as to who is truly interested in having the Contadora process and its peacemaking efforts progress and who the real enemies of peace and stability in the region are. [end recording]

Issue Communique on Talks

PA160212 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0012 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 15 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- Today's agreements signed by the foreign ministers of Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica at the conclusion of a 2-day meeting in San Jose, will be submitted to the Contadora Group.

This was asserted by Edgardo Paz Barnica, foreign secretary of Honduras; Jorge Eduardo Tenorio, foreign minister of El Salvador; and Carlos Jose Gutierrez, foreign minister of Costa Rica, in a communique released here today.

The communique states that, during the 2-day meeting held in San Jose, "it was decided to issue a call to the Nicaraguan Government urging it to grant a satisfactory solution to the case of refugee Jose Manuel Urbina Lara as soon as possible."

Paz Barnica and Tenorio explained that they decided not to attend the Contadora meeting scheduled for yesterday and today in Panama City in solidarity with Costa Rica, since Costa Rica says it will not attend the meetings until Nicaragua offers a satisfactory explanation regarding the former refugee's case.

Jose Manuel Urbina Lara, 23 years old, was forcibly taken from the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua on 24 December 1984 by Sandinist policemen who broke into the mission, according to charges presented by the Costa Rican Government. The Nicaraguan Government argues that the youth was captured outside the embassy.

The foreign ministers of Costa Rica and El Salvador, and the foreign secretary of Honduras confirm that they are willing to "contribute positively to the negotiating process because it is the Central American countries' responsibility to negotiate, subscribe, and comply with the formulas that guarantee a stable peace in the region."

The communique states that a document was issued regarding the international mechanisms for control and verification of the fulfillment of the pledges that will be assumed in the peace process.

The foreign ministers, who also worked with their advisers, reiterated "the firm support of the Costa Rican, Salvadoran, and Honduran Governments to the peace process started by Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela, the Contadora Group countries."

They described as "praiseworthy" the group's efforts since January 1983, and they reasserted their governments' decision to "continue their work until a peaceful solution to the Central American crisis is achieved."

They also indicated that an "overall analysis" was made yesterday and today regarding the current situation of the Central American crisis.

Finally, they reviewed the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican disagreement and said that the Costa Rican position "is in legitimate defense of the right to asylum, a basic principle of American international law, which is being violated by Nicaragua." The diplomatic "summit" in Panama City was postponed Wednesday at the last minute, because Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Honduras refused to send their representatives until Nicaragua had released the former refugee.

COSTA RICA

NEW INCIDENT AT MANAGUA EMBASSY 'CLEARED UP'

PA162107 San Jose RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO in Spanish 14-20 Feb 85 p 4

[Text] With the rupture inflicted by Jose Manuel Urbina Lara's case in the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua not yet healed, a new incident occurred on 7 February in that same embassy which threatens to further aggravate relations between the governments of Daniel Ortega and Luis Alberto Monge.

Nicaraguan citizen Manuel Salvador Matus, a 23-year-old mechanic, became the protagonist of this new adventure at the Costa Rican Embassy, which has become the haunt of thousands who try daily to obtain a visa to leave Nicaragua.

According to reports from Managua, in recent weeks the Costa Rican Embassy has received many requests for political asylum from youths wishing to avoid the Patriotic Military Service. The Costa Rican authorities, however, have refused these requests, since the desire to avoid military duty cannot be regarded as a cause for political persecution.

Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez confirmed this in San Jose on 8 February when he said that this decision is in accordance with established agreements on asylum signed in Havana and Caracas. He also suggested that these refusals were being carried out in good faith so that the Nicaraguan Government would release Jose Manuel Urbina Lara.

Gutierrez also indicated that Costa Rican Civil Guard elements will bolster vigilance at the embassy in Managua, where the Sandinist police seem to have begun exerting particularly rigorous controls compared to those exerted at other embassies.

This close vigilance outside the Costa Rican Embassy became evident on Thursday, 7 February, when at 0830 Matus parked his motorcycle and headed for the line of people requesting visas, which on that day was particularly long.

A policeman stopped Matus, who presented his documents. Even though the passport was in order, the policeman asked him to show his military service registration card. Matus, who was with his wife, Isabel Orozco Rivas, showed it to him. The card indicated that his neighborhood recruitment board had exempted him from serving in the Army due to a dislocation of his collarbone.

However, the policeman told him he would be detained and ordered him not to try to get in the line of people outside the consulate. "If you take three more steps, I will shoot you," he told Matus, while readying his gun. At that point Matus' wife stood between the two men, a circumstance that Matus took advantage of to run toward the line of people. According to him, the people helped him get over the wire mesh surrounding the embassy to find refuge inside.

Matus has told the press that he did not want to request asylum because he has not committed any crime, and he is not evading the military service. "My entire family is in Costa Rica, and that is why I requested the visa," he explained.

Ambassador Jesus Fernandez authorized Captain Alberto Vasquez Gomez, the Sandinist chief of the Embassy Protection Unit, to enter the embassy. The ambassador witnessed people standing outside the building shouting phrases against the police chief.

In light of these reactions, Fernandez requested the aid of the Permanent Human Rights Commission, which guarded the departure of Matus and his wife 3 hours later, after everything had been cleared up and Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto had phoned the Costa Rican ambassador. The Costa Rican Embassy prepared a report on the incident, but Capt Vasquez Gomez refused to sign it.

SECURITY COUNCIL ON MINISTERS MEETING, OTHER ISSUES

PA151709 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Report by Marita (Heilbron) from the Presidency of the Repulbic -- live]

[Text] During an ordinary session the Security Council discussed a report by Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez on the suspension of the Contadora Group meeting; that is, regarding the meeting that the foreign ministers of El Salvador, Costa Rica, and the foreign secretary of Honduras held yesterday to decide their position on the Contadora Group meeting that was scheduled for today.

Costan Rican Vice President Armando Arauz Aguilar spoke to us about that meeting. He explained that the foreign ministers and secretary had planned to attend the Contadora meeting, but (?when they learned) that, as we reported earlier, Nicaragua would not return Jose Manuel Urbina Lara the three countries confirmed that they would not participate in the Contadora Group meeting. The Contadora meeting was subsequently suspended.

The Security Council also reviewed a report by Colonel Oscar Vidal on the incidents that occurred Sunday and Monday on the northern border, specifically in the Montelimar area where a Sandinist People's Army patrol opened fire against the Costa Rican authorities. As we had reported earlier, Vice President Arauz said that there were no casualties, but added that a report will be submitted to the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry which will lodge a protest before the Nicaraguan Government.

The Security Council also discussed the report on the three Sandinist soldiers who were found bound several days ago in Nicaraguan territory and who were reportedly being held by the Nicaraguan Democratic Revolutionary Alliance. Arauz said that the immigration director told him that the three individuals contacted Nicaraguan Ambassador Leonor Arguello, who has stated that they wish to return to Nicaragua. However, the vice president indicated that confusion surrounds the issue and therefore the three will be turned over to the UN Office of High Commissioner on Refugees, which will issue a (?statement) on whether these persons want to return to Nicaragua. Arauz pointed out that if the three want to go back to Nicaragua, the Costa Rican Government will fully agree.

During the Security Council meeting the case of a Costa Rican citizen who was found dead near the Nicaraguan border was also discussed. The vice president reported that the case involved a cattle smuggling incident.

The Costa Rican official also viewed the flow of refugees that has taken place during the past several days. He said that these people are refugees, not deserters from the mandatory military service in Nicaragua as various media have reported. He also cited a communique issued by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister D'Escoto in which he accuses Costa Rica of violating international law. Arauz said that Costa Rica has always respected international law, and made the following comments:

[Begin recording] That communique [words indistinct] levels specific charges. Among other things, it states that there were weapons on a farm in Guanacaste and that it is a training facility. The truth is that our authorities raided the farm before the communique was issued; they seized old [words indistinct] on the Guanacaste farm. This was carried out a long time before the letter was [words indistinct]. Therefore, we maintain that there are no encampments there. We maintain strict control over the northern area; there are permanent patrol operations there. Any specific reports are investigated; the Rural Police or Civil Guard directly intervene in each case. They are [words indistinct] to investigate those cases. We categorically refute any charge that we are violating international law or our neutrality declaration. It is evident that Costa Rica is not violating international law. In the specific case of [words indistinct] Urbina, the Nicaraguan Government is the one trampling and violating the right to asylum.

Specifically speaking, while the case is under discussion within the Contadora Group, a Nicaraguan Government military tribunal has condemned him to 5 years in prison. This is an unprecendented case in the history of public international law. Therefore, I repeat: We must vigorously reject any charge that we are violating international law regarding this case. Costa Rica is a lawful country. We pride ourselves on always respecting the law to solve internal and international conflicts. We are defenders of international law. We base our own defense, the defense of our country, on the application of law, not only of international American law, but also [words indistinct] of all organizations, including the United Nations, that are a part of that international law. [end recording]

CAMPOS QUESTIONS DRUG TRAFFICKING CHARGES

PA170423 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 11 Feb 85 p 10 A

[Excerpts] The Nicaraguan Government has said that anti-Sandinists are building three landing strips in Costa Rican territory to be used "for drug trafficking, with the intention of financing their armed operations."

In this regard, Acting Security Minister Johnny Campos affirmed the authorities' absolute control of our national territory and said that they "have no information about the construction of these landing strips."

"Nevertheless, we are waiting for Nicaragua's official note, which provides the information they allegedly have," and will check the sites they mention, he said. He added that it is not easy to build landing strips in Costa Rica without the authorities knowing about it, because heavy machinery must be used.

The official said it is well known that leftist guerrillas in America are using narcotics as a source to generate money and purchase weapons. Thus, drug trafficking is being strictly curtailed.

South American authorities have dismantled several bands engaged in this activity, and thus it is feared that they will seek a new locale, namely Costa Rica. We will prevent this unlawful activity whenever possible, the official concluded.

EL SALVADOR

DUARTE URGES REBELS TO JOIN DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

PA160320 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 15 Feb 85 pp 2, 15

[Excerpt] Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte has called on rebels to lay down their weapons and join the democratization process. He issued the call during a ceremony held yesterday at noon to commemorate the 130th anniversary of the founding of Chalatenango Department.

The Salvadoran president reiterated that rebel groups will never attain power through violence because the Salvadoran people have already demonstrated their support for the power of the vote and rejected terror.

"It is time to reconsider, for the good of the family, society, and the country. The Salvadoran people are tired of violence and need peace to prosper," Duarte said.

He indicated that in all the countries he has visited he has demonstrated his support for the dialogue: a clean, sincere dialogue devoid of political tactics that genuinely seeks to end violence. The president was accompanied by Vice President Rodolfo Antonio Castillo Claramount, Treasury Minister Ricardo Lopez, and other ranking government officials.

DUARTE ANNOUNCES EDUCATION HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMS

PA160248 San Salvador Radio Libertad in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Feb 85

["Excerpt" of press conference by President Jose Napoleon Duarte in San Salvador on 14 February -- recorded]

[Excerpt] Many years ago the Salvadoran Education Ministry enacted an educational reform that eliminated all ethical and civic education subjects from children's curricula. This was in response to an effort to impose the teaching of dialectical materialism in schools. As a result of the reform, all subjects that instilled ethical and patriotic values in students were eliminated from school programs. This deprived an entire generation of a knowledge of the ethical and patriotic values of our country. They did not learn the value of our national symbols, the flag, the national anthem, the coat of arms, or about our nation's forefathers. Those youngsters, today's men and women, were left out in the cold regarding moral and civic education, and as a result they became easy prey for ideologies based on that same doctrine: dialectical materialism. This historical blunder has been a blow to our youth, who as a result grew up to become socially malcontent and radicals who, because they lacked a sense of patriotism and morality, turned easily into guerrillas and terrorists seeking to impose an imported, Marxist-Leninist, and totalitarian ideology on our people.

This trend has been corroborated throughout the nation's schools. I have felt a national clamor to reestablish ethics and civic education in our country. I am therefore pleased to report that I have approved documents for the teaching of ethics and civic education in elementary schools. These include programs for the first through ninth grades. I have these documents with me. They will be released tomorrow and turned over to the Education Ministry, which will begin to print the texts of the new program.

In addition to the ethical and civic education programs, we will also implement human rights programs. I have the 10 human rights study plans with me now. They cover the following topics: introduction to human rights, human rights and the family, human rights and culture, work, freedom, justice, law, coexistence, and human rights and the universal declaration of the rights of man. Each will be a lecture promoting peace. They will be distributed at all levels of the Education Ministry.

Yesterday I also approved another document pertaining to the Armed Forces. It is the basic enunciation of standards regarding human rights that the members of El Salvador's security bodies will be obligated to follow.

These 3 documents, the one on teaching ethical and civic values, the one containing the 10 programs on human rights in education, and the basic human rights program that will be mandatory reading and practice for members of the Armed Forces, are another effort to attain a climate of security and respect for human rights in El Salvador. This effort, together with the social security reform that we are attempting to implement, the search for social responsibility through the implementation of such programs, and the search for social participation through the national plan and the dialogue, will gradually lead us to peace.

TENORIO ON 'FORMIDABLE' PROBLEMS FACING DUARTE

FL151842 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1625 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] San Jose, 15 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Salvadoran Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Tenorio has said the administration of President Jose Napoleon Duarte is facing formidable obstacles, created by the opposition majority in the legislature. He told NOTIMEX there had even been concrete attempts to induce the Armed Forces to execute a coup and to encourage violations of the Constitution.

Tenorio stressed that because of this situation, Duarte's Christian Democratic Party (PDC) needs to increase its representation from the 26 seats it now holds to at least 31 of the 60 that will be contested in elections next March.

He admitted frankly that due to a combination of factors related to the PDC's minority status and the adverse composition of the parliamentary majority, Duarte has had problems with his government programs and the political actions he has proposed to guarantee El Salvador's stability.

The PDC and its ally, the Democratic Action, will vie with Major Roberto D'Aubuisson's National Republican Alliance and former Foreign Minister Francisco Jose Guerrero's Party of National Reconciliation for the 60 national deputy seats, as well as control of 262 municipal councils.

Tenorio said the regressive and antihistorical forces had to some degree blocked the political and economic restructuring plans that Duarte had when he entered office last year.

He said the opposition seeks any lie it can use to upset Duarte's proposed order. It also strongly criticizes the official willingness to talk with the FDR-FMLN.

He explained that those engaging in armed uprisings or subversion had participated in the first political dialogue meetings at La Palma and Agagualo. The government rejects their first two demands. There will be no restructuring of the Army to permit guerrillas to join and there will be no changes in the terms of office of the government or in the structure of the state, as requested by the FDR-FMLN.

FMLN DECREES TRAFFIC PARALYZATION TO BEGIN 20 FEB

PA190135 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] Attention, pay close attention; attention, all our people, pay close attention. The FMLN has decreed a national paralyzation of traffic as of next Wednesday, 20 February; we repeat, a national paralyzation of traffic as of Wednesday, 20 February.

We appeal to transporters and all our people to refrain from traveling on roads throughout the national territory. We repeat, we appeal to transporters and the people to refrain from traveling throughout the national territory. This national traffic paralyzation, to begin next Wednesday, 20 February, is part of our sabotage of the dictatorship's war economy.

GUATEMALA

ANDRADE OFFERS TO MEDIATE BETWEEN NICARAGUA, COSTA RICA

PA191944 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 17 Feb 85 p 2

[Text] Guatemala City, 16 Feb -- Guatemala has offered to mediate between Nicaragua and Costa Rica in the search for a solution to the current Contadora Group crisis over peace in Central America. Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran told this to EL GRAFICO today.

"I have talked on the phone with the foreign ministers of Nicaragua and Costa Rica, Miguel D'Escoto and Carlos Jose Gutierrez, respectively, to notify them of Guatemala's desire to help overcome the present conflict," the official explained. He added that he has also talked to other foreign ministers in the area and those of the Contadora Group.

According to Andrade Diaz-Duran, Guatemala's position is very respected within the Contadora Group, comprised of Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, and Colombia, because our country's conduct has been characterized by "active neutrality" with regard to the Central American conflict.

The Contadora Group is facing its most serious crisis since midweek, when Costa Rica, backed by Honduras and El Salvador, refused to attend a meeting of the area's foreign ministers on 14 February in Panama. Costa Rica made this decision in protest against Nicaragua and claimed that the Sandinist government had violated the right to asylum when it dragged student Jose Manuel Urbina from its embassy in Managua on 24 December 1984.

Andrade Denies Offer

PA190147 Paris AFP in Spanish 0045 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] Guatemala City, 18 Feb (AFP) -- Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade denied today that Guatemala had offered to mediate between Nicaragua and Costa Rica and said that Contadora continues to be "the only alternative" to secure peace in the region.

In a statement to AFP, Andrade said that the report of the mediation, which was supplied by a source at the Guatemalan Foreign Ministry, was given in response "to a hypothetical question" by a local newsman. He denied that any initiative had been made to that effect before the governments of Managua and San Jose.

Andrade recognized that the crisis in the region "is worsening" and said that "it requires a very positive attitude on the part of the parties involved" to overcome the "impasse" created within the Contadora mediation effort.

This mediation group, made up of Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, and Colombia, suspended at the last moment a meeting of foreign ministers scheduled for late last week after Costa Rica decided not to attend the meeting in view of a diplomatic dispute with Nicaragua. Andrade added: "The impasse is definitely affecting the Contadora process" and said that the meeting of foreign ministers could be postponed until "the conditions are more favorable."

According to the foreign minister: "The fact that there was no flexibility on the part of Nicaragua at a given moment made it more complicated for everyone." Despite this, "Guatemala continues to believe that eventually all the obstacles will be overcome and we will continue to negotiate."

The Guatemalan foreign minister recalled that "Guatemala's attitude has been and is a positive one of active neutrality in the search for peace." He explained that Guatemala has remained "equidistant from and always open to dialogue" with the other countries of the area. Then he added: "We support Costa Rica, but we trust that after satisfaction is achieved in the case, the crisis will be overcome" and that "despite the problem per se, the Contadora Group meeting should have been held in Panama."

For Andrade a military confrontation in the area "would be totally negative for each and every one of the Central American countries."

Finally, Andrade told AFP that he hopes to exchange views with the foreign ministers of the Contadora Group at the end of the month when he attends the inauguration of the new Uruguayan president in Montevideo on 24 February.

HONDURAS

SUAZO DEDICATES AIRSTRIP, LAUDS TIES WITH U.S.

PA162009 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 15 Feb 85 p 3

[Text] Palmerola, Comayagua -- Upon dedicating the two modern airstrips yesterday, one for taxiing and one for landing, President Roberto Suazo Cordova said that this work demonstrates the cooperation between two friendly countries that maintain fraternal relations. In his speech yesterday, the chief executive thanked the U.S. Government for its cooperation in completing this work. "This demonstrates the cooperation between two friendly countries, which maintain fraternal ties and are engaged in a process of negotiations to strengthen such ties within a framework of mutual respect that strengthens our dignity as a sovereign and independent nation."

In another part of his speech, Suazo Cordova stated that the installations belong to Honduras and have resulted from the efforts of good Hondurans. Regarding the installations themselves, he said: "These installations, which are under the authority of the Armed Forces, represent constant evidence of our nation's sovereignty and the willpower of our government and people." In the president's view, this work completed by the Armed Forces represents a fully developed system that will provide them with technical training and a basic infrastructure to implement our homeland's defense and deterrence plans. President Suazo reasserted his conviction regarding the need to professionalize the Armed Forces to permit them to fulfill their lofty mission of defending our nation's integrity.

NICARAGUA

D'ESCOTO CALLS FOR RESUMPTION OF TALKS WITH U.S.

PA190133 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] The Latin American countries that have supported the Contadora Group should redouble their efforts to see that the United States resumes the dialogue with Nicaragua. This was said by Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, who received Vice President Sergio Ramirez at the airport on his return from a visit to several European countries.

[Begin recording] The Contadora Group in its 9 January communique referred to the Manzanillo talks, which they viewed as positive for an understanding between the United States and Nicaragua and which should be supported by Latin American countries. At this moment, I think that the Latin American countries which have supported the Contadora Group will have to show this now by insisting on the resumption of the bilateral talks. I think these talks are vital even for the Contadora process. It is more practical and by all means preferable for the United States, instead of trying to communicate with Nicaragua through Honduras and Costa Rica, to do so directly. So far it has tried to avoid the responsibility of holding direct talks with us. I think that all those in Latin America who have been supporting Contadora should insist and redouble their efforts to try to persuade the U.S. Government to continue the bilateral talks with Nicaragua. [end recording]

To Visit U.S.

PA152306 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Nicaragua Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman will go to the United States to hold meetings with U.S. congressmen to discuss the situation created by the suspension of the Contadora meeting.

PROTEST NOTE SENT TO COSTA RICA OVER ATTACK

PA190421 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0402 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] Managua, 18 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- Nicaragua charged tonight that an attack with grenades and rifle fire had been staged "from Costa Rica" by anti-Sandinist groups against national territory, resulting in the death of a Nicaragua soldier. The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry sent a protest note to the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry charging that the attack was carried out by some 60 rebel guerrillas. The attack occurred today at 0600 (1200 GMT) at the Penas Blancas border post, a government bulletin announced.

In a note sent to his Costa Rican counterpart Carlos Jose Gutierrez, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto said that the "mercenary forces" initially launched an attack with 12 grenades and rifle fire on the Penas Blancas border post. The second attack, with four grenades and rifle fire, on national territory occurred 15 minutes later, D'Escoto added.

The diplomat said that after the attack Sandinist Lieutenant Timoteo Rocha contacted Costa Rican Lieutenant Malverto Ruiz, who admitted that there had been combat that day within Costa Rican territory involving "mercenaries."

The Managua report added that in view of the superiority of the anti-Sandinists, who outnumbered the Sandinists, the Nicaraguan soldiers retreated inside Costa Rican territory, but four antigovernment guerrillas were captured. [sentence as received]

"This proves the use of Costa Rican territory by organizations operating in Costa Rica, despite the fact that many of its members are enjoying the political status of asylum," Foreign Minister D'Escoto added.

BORGE CHARGES COSTA RICA VIOLATING RIGHT TO ASYLUM

PA172301 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Regarding the Costa Rican Govenrment's demand that Urbina Lara, who violated Nicaraguan laws, be delivered to Costa Rican authorities, Tomas Borge Martinez, commander of the revolution and interior minister, has said that peace cannot be based on blackmail but on principles and mutual respect and that, therefore, Nicaragua will abide by the law.

At a mass meeting held yesterday at the Celi movie theater in Boaco, Borge Martinez stressed that imperialism is resorting to every means and is investing millions of dollars in its attempt to destroy Nicaragua's revolutionary process through direct military intervention. Borge stressed that if such intervention occurs, the Nicaraguan people must join efforts to repel it and defeat the mercenary and counterrevolutionary forces. He added: The revolutionary government has made efforts in an attempt to find a peaceful and negotiated solution to the Central American conflict, particularly in relation to Nicaragua. Therefore, it has not hesitated to agree to sign the Contadora Document and to attend the Manzanillo talks in order to negotiate directly with the United States. Let's hear part of the speech delivered by Commander of the Revolution Tomas Borge Martinez:

[Begin recording] This is why our government has made efforts in various directions, in order to prevent an intervention. This is why we have supported the Contadora Group. We were the first Central American country to support the Contadora Document; and by the way, we are the only ones who have done so. This is why, although we know of imperialism's evil intentions, we decided to accept the invitation to participate in the Manzanillo talks. This is why we have gone to all the international forums in an effort to find a negotiated solution to the Central American conflict, particularly regarding Nicaragua.

However, since we want peace, we have had to face obstacles placed by those who want war. The United States has withdrawn from the Manzanillo talks, but the Contadora Group option remains open. The Contadora Group foreign ministers will continue meeting in order to pursue their goal.

As we all know, there are counterrevolutionary camps in Honduras. Hondurans themselves know that counterrevolutionary forces operate from their territory, supported by broad government sectors in that country. We have never used the fact that Honduras actively and openly helps the counterrevolutionary groups as a pretext for not attending Contadora meetings.

Who does not know that the Nicaraguan Democratic Force maintains counterrevolutionary bands in Costa Rica? They move freely in the streets of San Jose; they collect funds publicly; they have their own radio station; they say whatever they want, and the Costa Rican authorities pretend they do not know. The counterrevolutionary leaders organize logistics for their groups from Costa Rican territory. They voice the most absurd and virulent attacks against the revolution from Costa Rican territory using Costa Rican media.

The Costa Rican Government constantly violates the right to asylum and the most basic principles of respect toward another country. The neutrality proclaimed by the Costa Rican Government is constantly violated by some sectors in that country. However, when an individual seeks asylum at an embassy -- the Costa Rican Embassy -- and leaves the embassy to go and have some fun, or to go who the hell know where, and Nicaraguan

authorities arrest him, the Costa Rican Government makes a big fuss over the incident and refuses to attend the Contadora meeting.

They are the ones who have violated the right to asylum over and over: They have permitted the murder of Nicaraguans form Costa Rican territory. They have not removed someone from their embassy but have instead harbored murderers and criminals who come here to kill old people, women, and children in our country. [end recording]

D'ESCOTO DEPLORES 'BLACKMAIL' OF CONTADORA GROUP

PA161350 Paris AFP in Spanish 0540 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Managua, 15 Feb (AFP) -- Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto deplored the fact that Contadora has accepted "the blackmail and conditions set by one country" as terms for continuing the negotiating process promoted by this group. The foreign minister made the statement today after participating with President Daniel Ortega at a meeting with relatives of a group of young educators kidnapped recently by rebel groups.

D'Escoto said that Contadora should never have accepted Costa Rica's arguments that it would not attend the meeting of foreign ministers scheduled this week in Panama unless the case of political asylum pending with Nicaragua was resolved. The meeting in which the Central American states sought to discuss the bases of a peace document for Central America had to be suspended when El Salvador and Honduras proclaimed solidarity with Coata Rica's position.

"It seems to me that this sets a nefarious precedent, because if this was accepted in the case of Costa Rica, on the basis of a fictitious charge, then tomorrow there would be much more reason to accept the terms of another country that presented real arguments." As an example, the foreign minister mentioned the case of his country, noting that it could perfectly well decide not to continue participating "until the camps in Honduras are dismantled and similar action is taken in Costa Rica."

D'Escoto affirmed that his government has not at any moment considered releasing Jose Urbina, a Nicaraguan asylum seeker who was involved in a confusing incident last December at the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua. The return of Urbina, who was captured at that time by the Nicaraguan authorities, is one of the essential conditions that the Costa Rican Government has set for attending the Contadora meetings.

D'Escoto said that the only way that Contadora can move forward in its negotiations "is when the United States ceases to intervene and pressure other countries of the area that defend its interests." In that sense he said that El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Honduras have behaved within Contadora as "veritable foreign ministers of the United States," which he claims "must allow them to defend their own interests and not its interests." For Nicaragua, Costa Rica's decision not to attend the thwarted Panama summit "is in reality part of the U.S. pressures."

Finally, the foreign minister deplored the fact that in many cases there has been an "extremely timid" response from the international community in the face of what he termed the "barbaric policy" of the Reagan administration.

Praises Guatemalan Position

PA170137 Managua International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] The United States has influenced the Central American countries which, together with Nicaragua, are negotiating within Contadora the peace of the region. The only exception is Guatemala, a country that has adopted a worthy stance.

This statement was made by Father Miguel D' Escoto, Nicaraguan foreign minister, during a press conference. The Nicaraguan foreign minister said yesterday that since those Central American governments do not defend the interests of their peoples but those of the U.S. Government, the only feasible alternative is for Nicaragua to speak first with the United States. In that sense, the revolutionary minister said that the Reagan administration should, as soon as possible, continue with the Manzanillo talks in order to establish the basis for normal relations, with dignity and mutual respect, between the two countries.

Regarding the situation between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, Foreign Minister D'Escoto stated that Urbina Lara was arrested outside the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua, as was recognized in an official note issued by that country's foreign and deputy foreign ministers.

RAMIREZ ON CONTADORA, EUROPEAN TOUR, CONTRAS

PA151610 Paris AFP in Spanish 1514 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Paris, 15 Feb (AFP) -- At a press conference held here today, Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez said that he trusts that "reason will prevail in Costa Rica" and that the peace efforts of the Contadora Group (Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela) will be able to continue.

Ramirez indicated that the case of the Nicaraguan who sought asylum at the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua and who was subsequently arrested outside that embassy was only a pretext to cancel the Contadora meeting scheduled to be held in Panama yesterday. Our government is not willing to yield because it has "a legal juridical reason," he added. "If we were sure that peace in Central America depended on the delivery of that Nicaraguan to Costa Rica, we would release him and the 5,000 Somozist guardsmen we are holding in jail without any problem. However, we are sure that it would solve nothing but would only increase the problems," he noted.

The truth is that the meeting failed because "the U.S. Government is not interested in the advance of the Contadora process which involves the signing of the revised 1984 document," he stressed. "The United States is not willing to let its allies sign the document because it bans the presence of foreign military forces in Central America," he stated, adding: "What the United States wants is for Contadora to legitimize the U.S. military presence."

The problem of the individual who sought asylum is "a totally marginal incident and its importance cannot be compared with what is at stake, which is the peace of Central Aemrica," he indicated. The Contadora process "must not be hindered by bilateral problems because permanent pretexts could be found to sabotage it," he remarked.

Asked about a way to unblock the process, Ramirez said that he is convinced that "reason will prevail in Costa Rica because it is a civilized country." He added that Contadora still has sufficient vitality to continue its task and that the inauguration of democratic governments in Brazil and Uruguay will help reinforce it.

The Nicaraguan vice president began a tour of Europe on 5 February. He visited Madrid, London, Dublin, and Paris to ask the governments to intercede with the Reagan administration to convince it to resume the dialogue with Managua. Regarding this, he said that the Irish Government vowed, in a communique, to make this effort with the Reagan administration. He added that he is convinced that the Spanish and French Governments will do the same through the means that they deem most advisable, but noted that "he is not sure" if the British Government will do the same.

Asked about the struggle against the anti-Sandinist movement, Ramirez said: "We are fighting with better results thanks to the Battalions for Unconventional Warfare. We seized power as guerrillas, then organized a regular Army, and we are now fighting with the tactics of an irregular army, like guerrillas." With regard to the situation in the southeast, he said that the forces of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, were decimated following the January and February military campaign and that what is left of them are returning to Costa Rica.

As for the suspension of the Manzanillo (Mexico) talks with the United States, he said that he saw no concessions that his country could make in order to resume them. "To Reagan no concession is enough, except one: for us to leave power and seek exile as far away as possible from Nicaragua in order to give way to a pro-U.S. government. This is a concession we are not willing to make," he stressed.

MICOIN ANNOUNCES PRICE HIKES FOR 17 PRODUCTS

PA161830 Paris AFP in Spanish 0525 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Managua, 15 Feb (AFP) -- The Nicaraguan Ministry of Domestic Trade (Micoin) announced an increase in the prices of 17 consumer products, which in some cases were increases up to 200 percent in price. The price increases, which will take effect tomorrow, are part of the economic recommendations for the current year by the government of Commander Daniel Ortega. The new list, released by Micoin, establishes a 200-percent increase in the prices of sugar and sorghum, and a 100-percent hike in the prices of milk and chicken. Meanwhile, the price of a pound of rice will rise from 4.75 to 10 cordobas, the price of toilet paper will rise from 8.50 to 16 cordobas, the price of cooking oil will rise from 16 cordobas per liter to 36 cordobas, and the price of eggs will rise from 28 to 52 cordobas per dozen. Other products which were increased in price this week are beans, soap, detergents, toothpaste, rubber boots, flour, salt, deodorants, matches, beef, and pork.

CDN MEMBERS ACCEPT ORTEGA'S INVITATION TO MEET

PA160015 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] President Daniel Ortega Saavedra has invited the leaders of the Nicaraguan opposition group, the Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Democratic Coordinating Board [CDN], to a meeting to discuss the package of economic measures recently issued by the government.

The members of the CDN held a press conference at the Central Organization of Nicaraguan Workers, CTN, to decide whether to accept the President Ortega's invitation for a meeting at 1000 on Saturday, 16 February at the Government House.

The purpose of the invitation is to analyze the government's economic measures. Present at the press conference were Eduardo Rivas Gasteazoro, president of the Coordinating Board; Ramiro Gurdian, president of the Agricultural and Livestock Producers Union of Nicaragua, Upanic; Jose Espinosa, political secretary of the Confederation for Trade Union Unity, CUS; Luis Rivas Leiva, president of the Social Democratic Party; Agustin Jarquin, president of the Social Christian Party, PSC; Miriam Arguello, Democratic Conservative Party leader; Carlos Huembes, member of the CTN; Rene Bonilla, member of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise, COSEP; and Rodolfo Mejia Ubilla, of the Constitutionalist Liberal Party.

Ramiro Gurdian, Jose Espinosa and Carlos Huembes were the speakers at the press conference and referred to the government's economi measures. The CDN members agreed to accept President Ortega's invitation for Saturday.

FDN'S CALERO ON STRUGGLE AGAINST GOVERNMENT

Sees FSLN Division

PA170203 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, president of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN, has said that the way the Sandinists have handled Urbina Lara's case is further evidence of the FSLN's internal division. According to the opposition leader, Interior Minister Tomas Borge has prevented Commander Daniel Ortega from fulfilling his pledges to Contadora.

[Begin recording -- broadcast in progress] ...May surmise other things too. This is clear evidence that there is a serious dispute between Borge and the Ortega brothers in Managua. They cannot hide this fact anymore. Jose Manuel Urbina is being held by the police and the Interior Ministry; he is in Borge's hands. Daniel Ortega said he would send delegates to the Contadora meeting and offered to release this man so as not to undermine...[rephrases] thus giving into Costa Rica's demands.

In other words, Borge did not allow Ortega to fulfill his pledge; Borge boycotted, opposed Nicaragua's presence in Panama. It would be interesting...[rephrases] Hopefully, these differences between them will increase and worsen the situation until they fight among themselves. The Sandinists already did this once. Borge threatened Wheelock and Carrion with death back in 1976 or 1977. He ousted them from the FSLN and said they were traitors, provoking the well-known division within the FLSN. This led to the creation of the Prolonged Popular War, proletarian tendency, and the infamous Third Way [terceristas], which did so much damage to the country. [end recording]

Discusses U.S. Aid

PA190039 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2237 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] San Jose, 17 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, president of the anti-Sandinist Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), has said that the aid of the United States to this rebel group is not decisive and he promised that the Sandinist government will be overthrown this year.

In an interview on Costa Rican television, Calero Portocarrero said that these resources are important, but not decisive, because "with or without the help of the United States we will persist in our struggle." However, the FDN leader said that they hope the U.S. Congress will not become "an obstacle soon like last year" to the granting of such aid.

Calero also noted that "we measure the Nicaraguan crisis in days, weeks, and months, but by no means in years," and added that 1985 will be the year of Nicaragua's liberation.

"All the factors at stake to determine the Nicaraguan situation are reaching their culmination, both in the political and armed effort, as well as the isolation of the Sandinist regime at the current moment."

CASTRO DISCUSSES CENTRAL AMERICA, DISARMAMENT

PA181638 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1535 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Havana, 18 Feb (EFE) -- Today, Cuban President Fidel Castro issued a dramatic warning to the industrialized countries about the threat that Latin America's "unpayable" foreign debt poses for world peace.

In an exclusive interview granted to EFE, Castro said that unless this situation is made more bearable soon, with a 10 to 20-year grace period for payment of the capital ($360 billion) and the interest ($40 billion a year), the danger is not that the military will return to power, but that there will be "total political destabilization" and a "social explosion" of unforeseeable consequences.

"There is no need for a flame," he said. "There can be just internal combustion and then there will not be enough water in the world to put it out."

For the Cuban leader, the only real solution that would prevent the bankruptcy of the international financial system would be a pure and simple cancellation of Latin America's debt accompanied by measures for a new international economic order.

However, the above-mentioned grace period and the industrialized countries' direct assumption of the debt, contracted mostly with private banks, would be an essential first step for temporarily deactivating what he described as the Latin American "powder keg."

During a 6-hour interview granted to Ricardo Utrilla, president and general director of EFE, who was accompanied by Marisol Marin, the agency's representative in Havana, Castro somberly described the Latin American situation as an "insoluble crisis of the system." This situation, he said, has even led the United States to try to get rid of General Pinochet in Chile, where the first "social explosion" might occur, something like a southern cone Nicaragua.

In answer to several questions, he suggested that, to the extent that that process threatens world peace, it does not favor Cuba's revolutionary aspirations in the region. "It might be better," he asserted, "if the changes were to come about in the most orderly, least traumatic, bloody way possible...that would be preferable."

"Preventing a war," he further asserted, "is as necessary as social change."

In this regard, he expressed his willingness to contribute to the area peace process by abstaining from intervening in other countries.

"I think," he said, "that the problems posed by development can be confronted only with the cooperation of the entire international community, socialist and capitalist countries alike. Underdevelopment is not resolved simply by having peace. Its solution falls within the framework of a peace perspective for the entire world, a peace which does not consist only of the discontinued manufacture or reduction of nuclear weapons, or abstaining from a space war program, but entails true willingness to get billions of human beings out of poverty by using the resources which today are so absurdly dedicated to military expenses."

"As for our region," he added, "the principle of nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other countries could be strictly enforced. We are 100 percent willing to comply with this: No Cuban interference even if we sympathyze with the revolutionary movements; neither Cuba nor the United States would interfere. Let each country decide responsibly what political and economic system it must follow.

"No one should try from abroad to promote a new social system or to maintain an unjust social order."

Although he admitted that Cuba is currently supporting the Sandinist revolution in Nicaragua both economically and militarily, he avoided direct answers about possible military aid to the Salvadoran guerrillas or the number of Cuban soldiers on Nicaraguan territory.

After flatly denying that the revolutionaries in Managua or those in El Salvador are trying to establish in their respective countries a Cuban-style political and economic system, Castro explained that Havana's military contribution in Nicaragua is strictly of an organizational nature involving instructors. He added that providing military aid to the Salvadoran guerrillas is "almost impossible." "A discussion of this subject is almost a metaphysical endeavor," he added.

In this regard, he referred to Cuba's "moral right" to support both Nicaragua and the Salvadoran guerrillas in the face of U.S. intervention, which is intended to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution from within and prevent the victory of the Salvadoran revolutionaires in the face of a "genocidal regime."

According to Castro, the possibility that the United States might stage a military intervention in Nicaragua "unfortunately exists." He added, however, that such an action "would truly be very foolish," but that under such circumstances, it would be "materially impossible" for Cuba to do anything. However, he stressed, "there is no military solution" for the United States in Latin America.

"Graphically," he went on, "we say that intervening in Nicaragua is to play with fire beside a powder keg since, in my opinion, Latin America's political and social situation can be described as a powder keg. Intervention would truly be a very foolish act on the part of the United States."

He added: "It has been demonstrated that no technology is capable of destroying the popular resistance movements of peoples who are motivated by patriotic and revolutionary ideas. It would be useless, there would be such a high price to pay, politically and in human factors, that, as I have already told the Americans, I consider it inconceivable that the United States will invade Nicaragua."

"My opinion, naturally, is that, although there is a solution, the United States will not negotiate seriously and will not support Contadora or its efforts as long as it has the hope of eliminating the Sandinist revolution from within.... However, if the United States wants to negotiate seriously, there will undoubtedly be a solution, and solutions that will satisfy Nicaragua and [the other] Central American nations as well as the United States itself," he added.

According to Castro, the plan followed by the Nicaraguans is "perfect": Without giving up being revolutionaries, they postpone the construction of socialism until it becomes possible and limit themselves for the time being to structural reforms, the most important of which is agrarian reform. It is a scheme that the Cuban leader sees as an example for the rest of Latin America, if one wishes to prevent an explosion, and in which he finds a certain parallel with the plan being implemented by the Socialist Party in Spain.

After stating that Latin America has two essential problems that it must solve, independence and development, he expressed his conviction that "to a greater or lesser degree, other Latin American countries will follow Nicaragua's scheme" because the ghost of a military coup is vanishing.

He said: "The military understand that the situation of these countries is unmanageable and they are withdrawing from the government, transferring the governments to civilians after having thoroughly failed in the management of the state, after having ruined the countries to a greater or lesser degree...all of them know that their countries have become unmanageable and they are turning power over to the civilians. That is, the crisis is so deep, that they no longer consider themselves capable of ruling."

However, he explained that in countries like Peru and Panama, the military played a progressive role and that in Brazil they followed "a different policy" from their Argentine, Chilean and Uruguayan colleagues.

"The political change that occurred in Brazil was not violent, but it was thorough. That is, the opening is serious, it is solid," he said.

Ties With Spain

PA181725 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1609 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Havana, 18 Feb (EFE) -- Fidel Castro said that he regretted that although relations between Cuba and Spain "are satisfactory," they have not improved and blamed this fact on the United States.

In an exclusive interview with EFE, the Cuban president said that relations between Madrid and Havana have prospered "as much as possible," but not "as much as they should" because Cuba is a "tenacious objector" to U.S. policy in Latin America and the world and "to a certain extent Spain is an ally of the United States in political and even in military matters."

Along the same line he said that Spain's incorporation into NATO was a "colossal historical blunder" and warned that that move and Spain's eventual membership in the EEC could spoil its "historical privilege" of exerting political, cultural, and economic influence in Latin America and serving as a link between industrialized Europe and the Third World.

However, he stated that he understands "clearly that because of Spain's geographical position as part of the European continent and its economic interests, it may indeed be convenient for it to join the European Common Market."

He added: "In no way do we intend to question Spain's absolute right to seek ways to accommodate its commercial needs and requirements of development. However, we must express our concern, which stems from the bitter experience we have had and the truly abusive exploitation we have suffered at the hands of industrialized capitalist nations."

During the 6-hour interview granted to Ricardo Utrilla, president and general director of EFE, and the agency's Havana representative, Marisol Marin, the Cuban head of state also blamed the United States for the fact that he has not yet been invited to visit Spain and other Western European nations and for the fact that the leaders of those countries do not travel to Cuba.

"The day that our relations with the United States improve, and no one knows when that will happen, we will receive many more visitors and also more invitations," Castro said. "However, as long as so many people are worried about the United States' reaction... for many states and political leaders it is a veritable headache to extend an invitation or even to visit us," he added.

He added ironically, however, that he is "not eager" to travel to Western Europe. He added that some European countries, including Spain, had thought of extending him a group invitation, and thus elude individual responsibilities in the face of the United States, but he added that those plans never crystallized. (Havana political sources reported that those countries were Spain, France, Greece, and Sweden.)

With regard to his unexpected and controversial stopover in Madrid last year, he stressed that it had not been planned. His route from Moscow was altered "for understandable security reasons," because when he travels, actual "manhunts" are organized against him.

Concerning the six members of the Basque Fatherland and Liberty organization [ETA], that Cuba received on 1 May 1984 from Panama, Castro said that although the 6-month stay they were initially granted has long expired, "we are not going to deport them or deny them hospitality." Whenever they are ready to leave they can leave," he said.

The Cuban leader admitted that such an attitude entails risks for Cuba. "We do not want to go on the record either as accomplices or as jail keepers of the ETA men," he said. He added that ETA has attempted to establish links with the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) to explain "its problem," but said that the PCC has always eluded this. "We will not get involved in Spanish affairs such as this one; no one can accuse us of that," he said. They were only accepted in Cuba, he insisted, on account of political considerations to Spain and Panama and humanitarian concerns regarding ETA members themselves.

Asked about the situation of political prisoner Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo, who is of Spanish descent and has been in prison for the past 20 years serving time on a 30-year sentence, Castro used strong language to rule out his release. He was charged with being chief of the Alfa-66 counterrevolutionary organization. "He deserved to be executed," Castro asserted.

"As long as there is the danger of a U.S. attack on our country, and as long as U.S. hostility continues, we cannot take the risk of freeing Menoyo. I think that the Spanish people can understand that perfectly," Castro said.

He said that he would like to give Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez proof of his personal regard and friendship by releasing Menoyo, but that this is not possible because Cuba's national interests come first.

Castro asked emphatically: "What would the Spanish people say if I asked the Spanish Government to release the ETA members currently in jail?... From the moral point of view, an ETA militant is more respectable than Menoyo, because ETA members are not mercenaries...Menoyo is more than a political prisoner. He is a traitor to his country because his actions were carried out from the United States, in the service of U.S. interests and against Cuba, and I understand that the ETA militants are not supported by any foreign power, and they do not work for any foreign power."

After flatly ruling our any possibility of an interview with Menovo, Castro said that the poet Armando Valladares, "who has not told one single truth," has never been disabled, which was proven when he was secretly filmed in his cell. He criticized the privileged treatement Valladares has received in Spain since his release.

To emphasize his point, he recalled the Spanish Civil War, and Cuba's contribution to that republican cause in the form of some 1,000 fighters.

He said: "Many Cubans died in Spain, fighting for the Spanish Republic. I do not think they died so that Madrid would be overindulgent with men like Valladares, or for men as Menoyo to be treated as great patriots. I wonder what they would say if they knew about this. I think that they died for higher ideals, and for much higher objectives... I do not think that they died for Spain's alliance with the United States, nor do I think that they died for Spain's entrance in NATO."

Castro went further back in history to stress what he considered "a historical contradiction" between the current situation and the 1898 war.

He said: "It is difficult for us to visualize Spain as a U.S. ally when only eight decades have passed since the U.S.-Spanish war over Cuba. Indeed, the United States fought its first imperialist war, also an opportunistic war, here."

He added: "It seems like a historical paradox that, after eight decades, Cuba should be the country that defends its nationality, which is Cuban, but which also has a vast Spanish influence, in its culture and in blood ties, while Spain today has become a U.S. ally, and a NATO member. This is certainly a historical contradiction. I think we have advanced, while Spain has moved backwards. I must say so frankly, although I know that an opinion such as this usually raises resentment and criticism. I have even been accused of trying to meddle in Spain's political affairs. Although this is not my intention, it is my right, as I am a Spanish citizen, according to the theory of dual citizenship."

Relations With Other Countries

PA181745 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1655 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Havana, 18 Feb (EFE) -- Cuban President Fidel Castro said today that he has never had any intention of resigning because "it would not be lucrative" for the country, but he added that his succession is assured.

Castro said that during the 26 years of the regime "an entire new educated generation has emerged" and that "all that is necessary is that someone be assigned this job and do it."

During a 6-hour interview with Ricardo Utrilla, president of EFE, accompanied by Marisol Marin, the agency's delegate in Havana, Fidel Castro emphasized that today Cuba is politically, militarily, and economically stronger than ever.

He revealed that at present "there are no more than" 1,000 political prisoners in Cuba, 200 of whom are old prisoners sentenced to long terms for revolutionary activities. At one time there were 15,000 political prisoners.

Castro discussed Cuba's relations with the United States, in which he perceives some positive signs that are not exempt from contradictions, and with the USSR, whose leaders "are not guided by national selfishness."

He also criticized Europe's attitude. "Europe is worn out. I tell you seriously, Europe does not have much more to give, Europe is politically and intellectually exhausted. I consider it exhausted. A consumer society exacts its price," he said.

The Cuban leader said "we are not a people of fanatics," but rather the cement that holds us together "are the ideas, the moral values, and the political values," without any sign of "personality cult" or "bossism."

"You will find no street, no school, no statue with my name, nor photographs of myself in public office," he added.

However, he said that he continues to lead the country because "for me it is a job like that of a doctor, an architect, an engineer, or a worker."

This is my job and I will do it as long as I believe I can be useful," because "I do have more experience now than when I began."

He said that often a person is selected for a post other than the one he would have preferred initially because "we have a collective leadership." However, he conceded that he is well aware that at the beginning he performed a role that was "very important" for the revolution.

"Leaders might think they are eternal, perhaps irreplaceable. Amid honors and recognition, they do not realize that all it takes is but a few years until people no longer remember them," he said. That is why in Cuba there is a second secretary of the party, "who will take over immediately;" if possible, there should always be a third man.

With regard to the United States, "a positive and constructive development occurred" -- the recent migration agreement. It showed that even difficult problems "can be resolved when discussed flexibly, seriously, and respectfully."

"There was another development of a general nature which, in my opinion, was positive: a speech delivered by Reagan after the elections, which contained peaceful overtones. In addition, the Geneva meeting was promoted," Castro added. He pointed to other signs in this direction, like the dialogue with Angola, viewing them "as symptoms that might reflect a more realistic approach in U.S. policy."

But the Cuban leader also stressed during the interview, the transcript of which was 115 pages long, what he described as U.S. "contradictions."

"I certainly do not believe that the U.S. policy is completely defined. On the one hand there is dialogue and on the other insistance on the space weapons programs, the MX missiles, and the new B-1 bombers."

According to the Cuban leader, it is not yet clear whether all the positive signs are merely tactical "ploys," since if the arms programs are undertaken, "there will not be detente." Instead, there will be "a colossal arms race, catastrophic for the entire world's economy, and a serious threat to peace."

He added that it is important to know "to what extent the intention of achieving military predominance prevails over the willingness to negotiate." However, he guessed that Reagan's great victory and the fact that this is his second term in office will help improve relations.

This improvement should fall "within the framework of a more realistic peace policy" on the part of the United States and within the context of improved international relations.

He warned, however, that despite certain positive signs, "the path is not clear," adding that those who say that "Cuba should give proof through its actions and not its words," are wrong. It is the other way around. "The United States is a big country, whose actions are the determinant factor in Central America and many parts of the world. It is from the United States that actions rather than words are required."

"We have absolutely nothing to prove because we are not impatient; we are in no hurry to improve relations," he said, although he did admit that if things were to get worse, Cuba has no means to counter a blockade.

However, "aggression against Cuba, for instance, would in the end imply defeat for the United States" because they would need millions of soldiers to occupy the island, which has all kinds of contingency plans and defense mechanisms, Castro said.

Unless the country were "exterminated" or "a few nuclear bombs" were used to blast Cuba "off the face of the earth," the United States cannot win, Castro emphasized. In that case "it would not be a defeat: History could never classify it as a defeat if people have resisted and maintained their flag steadfastly," he stated forcefully. "Yes, our country can be exterminated, but never defeated," he firmly stressed.

The leader spoke proudly of Cuba, "one of the only countries in the world that can say here and now what we will be doing in 1990, 1995, or the year 2000;" know how many teachers and doctors we will have and how much of each product will be produced "without counting upon the United States for anything," he said.

Fidel Castro said that "it is better to count on the USSR and the socialist countries." It is possible to exchange views with those countries because they are part of "a system that is not driven by the unmerciful selfishness of capitalism."

He said that Cuba's relations with the socialist countries are "excellent, better than ever," and that those countries "respect" a country that is "threatened because it will not get down on its knees, a country that does not surrender or sell out."

He stressed that "the future does not belong to Europe, it belongs to Latin America," and that "Europe does not have much more to teach." All the European countries "regard us as former colonies with a lot to learn, but actually, it's beginning to change."

"We do not need much from Europe and I say this in earnest," he emphasized, stating that the continent "has become an ideological and also an economic colony of the United States."

Castro said that the EEC "has an egotistical policy" which exports subsidized agricultural products, demands sugar quotas, practices protectionism and even dumping.

"European countries talk about competition," he added, "about free trade; but they do things that have nothing to do with free trade or competition," he said.

Throughout these statements, Fidel Castro illustrated his remarks on the deterioration of exchange with examples such as the case of sugar and bulldozers: Years ago 200 tons of sugar purchased a bulldozer; now 800 tons are needed to buy one.

Further on Other Countries

PA182000 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1831 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Havana, 18 Feb (EFE) -- Fidel Castro, sure of himself but openly worried about the world's situation, said today that the enormous Latin American debt is a threat to peace and deplored the U.S. influence upon relations between Cuba and Spain.

Castro, 57 years old and in power for 26 years, made the statements during a 6-hour interview with Ricardo Utrilla, president of EFE, who was accompanied by Marisol Marin, the agency's delegate in Havana. The transcript of the interview covered 115 pages.

In the interview Fidel Castro also discussed the following subjects:

The CIA -- "When I went to Chile, for example, when the Popular Unity government took office, elements trained by the CIA organized a hunt...some of them were even disguised as journalists, Venezuelan journalists, carrying television cameras with arms inside the cameras."

"Whenever there is talk of Castro taking a trip, they begin to organize the hunt, the safari."

The OAS -- "...The OAS is the organization which, in addition to the United States, takes charge of creating, discrediting, and destroying at the same time."

Heritage of the Latin American military -- "They all know that their countries have become unmanageable and they are returning power to the civilians. That is, the crisis is so deep that they no longer consider themselves capable of ruling."

Dominican Republic -- "They applied the IMF's formula, and the Army and police had to be called out to kill dozens of persons and wound hundreds more after the initial measures were taken."

Panama -- "The attempt to apply some tax measures...also caused a social upheaval. In Panama the National Guard has a patriotic position. It is not prepared to take to the streets to shoot the people."

Alliance for Progress -- "Kennedy proposed...imaginative measures...he proposed reforms and economic aid totaling $20 billion over several years. ...Today the interest amounts to $40 billion a year."

Africa -- "Although very serious, the situation is different. There, a large part of the population lives in villages as they have lived for many centuries."

Bolivia -- "The real situation at this moment is that no government party controls the workers; they refuse to accept further sacrifices."

Peru -- "Social convulsion is evident there. From afar no one can figure it out, no one understands it, and without question it reflects crisis and instability."

The pope -- "The pope's trip was subversive because the pope visited some native communities, poor districts, workers' districts and there he spoke of the need to give land to the peasants.... He reflected a situation that exists in Venezuela, that exists in Ecuador, that exists in Peru.... He proposed this as a need of society."

Brazil -- "In Brazil the opening occurred as a result of the people's struggle, the mobilization of millions of persons behind the direct vote.... The political change that occurred in Brazil was not violent, but it was deep, that is, the opening is serious, it is solid."

Chile -- "They resorted to the military. Pinochet does not have much time left. The situation is at the most critical in Chile's history..., even the United States no longer likes Pinochet. ...It is like a volcano."

China -- "Twenty years ago they talked about the yellow peril, the red danger..., now they are investing there.... They prefer a more or less orderly China, with social justice, a feudal China, a hungry China."

Conservatives -- "If you speak with Latin Americans...you will find that there are very few conservatives left. Occasionally, it is possible that you will not note differences between what a conservative will say and what I tell you...they are horrified."

Radio Marti -- It is almost ridiculous at this stage, considering the problems that exist in the area..., a really silly thing to spend money on that station."

FIDEL CASTRO PROPOSED AS PRECANDIDATE TO CONGRESS

FL181838 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] First Secretary of Cuba's Communist Party Fidel Castro and the other Politburo members were today proposed as precandidates to the party's congress to be held in Havana in December.

The proposal was made by members of the diplomatic mission [as heard] in Havana, whose militants have also outlined their savings goals according to suggestions expressed by the commander in chief in his last speeches.

CANADIAN PAPER ON U.S., CUBAN RELATIONS

PA160317 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] The United States' policy of rejecting the reestablishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba is beginning to be viewed as something silly, said GLOBE AND MAIL, a Canadian newspaper, adding that the normalization of ties with that Caribbean island is the first step the U.S. Government must take if it wants to conduct its relations in the hemisphere intelligently. After recalling that President Ronald Reagan said this week that he was not very optimistic regarding relations with Cuba, the newspaper recalled that in 1981 former U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig rejected the possibility of any dialogue if Cuba did not accept certain conditions detrimental to its soverignty.

GLOBE AND MAIL recalled that at that time the Pentagon sent an armed fleet into that Caribbean area and that in a white paper it published it accused Havana's government of supplying weapons to the Salvadoran guerrillas. The newspaper underscored that in 1985 Cuban President Fidel Castro committed himself to respect any Central American agreement that would include the withdrawal of all foreign advisers from the area, but the White House ignored the offer. Now President Reagan is asking the U.S. Congress to resume financial aid to the counterrevolutionary bands in Nicaragua, basing his request on the pretext that there is a Soviet-Cuban conspiracy to turn the Central American region into a USSR satellite, the newspaper concluded.

HAVANA RADIO ON U.S. POLICIES, SUGAR IMPORTS

FL152110 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1925 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] The Reagan administration continues its policy of applying protectionist measures against goods from underdeveloped nations through actions which will result in favoring domestic manufacturers.

In this respect, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has decided to extend the sugar import quota 2 months longer, a measure which will lead to reducing the amount of sugar that can enter the U.S. market.

This will mean, according to sugar analysts, that Latin American producers will lose up to 700,000 tons off their export quotas for the U.S. market.

The Reagan administration also announced that it will soon begin more stringent requirements such as adding labels showing the country of origin of all clothes sold in the United States.

FOREIGN TRADE VICE MINISTER ON SOVIET-CUBAN TRADE

PA150419 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Interview with First Vice Minister of Foreign Trade German Amado by Barbara Betancur in Havana; date not given -- recorded]

[Excerpt] [Betancur] Could you give us specific information about the magnitude of trade relations between Cuba and the USSR?

[Amado] In the past 25 years trade between the two countries has increased rapidly. It was very important at the beginning, because at that time our country was subject to enormous economic and military attacks. Logically, during those years it was very important for us to have a supply of oil and its products, as well as other raw materials essential for our economy. Trade during the first year amounted to only 65 million rubles, while last year's trade was approximately 8 billion rubles. We can see that it has experienced an extraordinary increase. In 1960 we had practically no trade relations with the USSR; they were just beginning. However, today the USSR is number one on the list of countries with which Cuba maintains trade relations. At the same time, Cuba is the USSR's seventh largest commercial partner.

[Betancur] Which are the main products we import from the USSR?

[Amado] There is an enormous variety of products we receive from the USSR. There are some 700, but of course we can mention the main ones. First, we have oil and its by-products, which guarantee an oil supply for our country. Since we sign 5-year agreements our country is guaranteed the necessary quantity of this important product for 5-year periods. Also, since our country does not produce cereals, we receive wheat, wheat flour, and other food products. We also receive a large amount of machinery, tractors, trucks, construction equipment, and numerous consumer goods, such as refrigerators, TV sets, and other electrical appliances.

Our country's main export product to the USSR is sugar. Also important, and currently in the developmental phase, are our nickel products. As we know, the new Ernesto Che Guevara plant in Punta Gorda, in the eastern part of the country, will soon be operating commercially. This plant, which was built with the USSR's cooperation, will produce 30,000 tons of nickel when it reaches maximum capacity, which is practically what we are now producing. In other words, this plant will double our production. Our citrus fruit exports have also played an important role. Citrus fruit production has increased considerably; we exported more than 150,000 tons of fresh citrus fruit in 1984, and our 1985 exports are expected to be even higher.